

**WARREN
MAGAZINE**

**VAMPI
#57**

JAN 1977

"STAND-IN" FOR SCI-FI HORROR! Page 25!

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VAMPIRELLA



**ANCIENT UNDEAD
HORROR STALKS
VAMPIRELLA
IN A
"CITY OF
GHOSTS!"**

ENRICH'S GIRLS IN...

THE 1977 WARREN CALENDAR 12 FULL COLOR PAINTINGS!

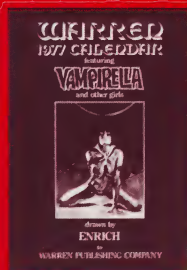


VAMPIRELLA & VARIOUS VAMPS

Warren Publishing takes pride in presenting this fine collection of magazine cover art by one of the top artists of the supernatural, Enrich. But as we promised in the title (and Warren Publishing always keeps their promises) we have concentrated on Enrich's girls. Each gorgeous gal is a delight to behold, with a haunting beauty only the unusual talents of Enrich could immortalize on canvas. A seductive ghoul girl threatens to make you her next victim. A barbaric huntress axes a bizarre game. An innocent, young thing alone in the woods awaits the approach of an unseen terror. And then there's our own beloved femme fatale, Vampirella. Running through the night to escape some dreaded fiend. Stalking her prey with blood-lust in her eyes. Meek and loving. Flaunting her beauty and power. Which of these is our Vampirella? All of them are. The series of color, action portraits of Vampirella reveal a heroine as real and complex as any live being. Haughty. Mild. Always Vampi. Each illustration is reproduced on heavy quality stock—a product of high quality printing and excellent craftsmanship—bound by a white enamel spiral. And due to the innovative calendar design, the calendar portion covers only a mere inch along the lower portion of the page. 12" of the 13" of the format is all art. And the reproductions are unbacked. Hang this calendar. Enjoy a different Enrich for every month of 1977 with no distracting lettering. Then clip off the calendar and frame the prints! #26011/\$2.50

NINE COVERS FROM VAMPIRELLA
& EERIE WITHOUT TITLE LOGOS

LARGE 13" x 9" SIZE!
INCLUDES 3 NEVER-BEFORE
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BY ENRICH





OUR COVER

Vampi is menaced by the corpse of Tristan her past lover. He is there for one final showdown in the City of Ghosts. This fiery masterpiece is by the magnificent Enrich!

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VAMPIRELLA®

CONTENTS ISSUE NO. 57 JANUARY 1977

4 VAMPI'S SCARLET LETTERS VAMPIRELLA #54 received rave reviews! And, of course, we were delighted. Since every story was a Vampi tale, we're not surprised. In comics or novels, VAMPI triumphs as one of the most popular heroines around!

5 CITY OF GHOSTS It had to be an illusion caused by the jeep accident in the desert. Vampi wasn't really in a withering, old western town. Tristan hadn't really shot Adam dead. The stagecoach was only a... wait! They'd seen the coach BEFORE the accident!

15 BRANCATELLI: COMIC BOOKS Charlton Comics, a tiny, self-contained firm in Connecticut, has gone down the tubes. Although its loss is hardly shattering to the entire industry could this be a premonition of things to be? Are Marvel and DC in trouble?

17 RUSTY BUCKLERS Dete's endless quest to rescue the princess Charlot from the sorcerer's castle had been abandoned. But old age, which robbed him of his strength, left him his dreams. Now, with Calef's help, he'd face the monster!

25 STAND IN The planet Deimos' society was based on religion, money and computer science. So it was little wonder that computers told man when to die, religion told him how, and money allowed him a way to avoid the frightening fate altogether!

33 MAGNIFICENT EPHEMERAL She was the greatest screen goddess Hollywood had conceived. Yet, after her first film she vanished. Scott was determined to reveal why. His assignment became his obsession & Gloria's awful secret became his epitaph!

45 AN INSULT TO SCIENCE Dr. William Miller was a rational man, a scientist who researched the occult and exposed fakes. He had no respect for mediums or the spirit world... even when the spirits issued a special, ghostly warning!

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Vampi's Scarlet Letters...

It's always a treat when VAMPI takes over her own magazine, and VAMPIRELLA #54 was no exception.

Gonzalo Mayo turned in yet another masterful performance on the art. The lush sensuality which marks Mayo's VAMPI was, of course, delightfully evident. But Gonzalo's treatment of the blood-lustling VAMPIRELLA was especially impressive. In fact, I'd venture to say that never has Vampi's predatory nature been so exquisitely embodied. Beauty and sensuality mingled with exotic menace and more than a touch of the sinister—now that's VAMPIRELLA! Bravo Gonzalo, and more Mayo!

Gerry Boudreau's writing, though aided immensely by the artwork, was impressive in its own right. The only weak spot was his use of Paul Daltrey as VAMPI'S victim. It was obvious after the first few pages that Daltrey would be the one to die. This unimaginative plot device tends to crop up whenever a cast of "regulars" is used. Whenever we met a new crewman on Star Trek for example, we knew that some dastardly doom was sure to befall him.

Despite this drawback, the character of Daltrey was used very effectively. In fact characterization in general was the name of the game for this mini-epic.

Boudreau took a rather complex plot and made it even more involved by using the multi-perspective first person form of narration. This device allowed us to see more in-depth characterization in one issue than the series had evinced for some time. We could "get inside" each character. It is easy to bog down a story using this technique—to fragment the story flow—and it is to Boudreau's credit that he largely avoided that pitfall. The result was a story destined, I'm sure, to become a classic in the VAMPIRELLA series.

After the VAMPI novelette, "Bowser" seemed glaringly out of place. It was, however, an enjoyable bit of fluff. Rich Corben's artwork fit the story perfectly.

I can't close without mentioning the inside cover (I'm glad they're back.)—classic Jose Gonzalez VAMPI.

ED O'REILLY
Ada, Ohio

After looking at the art in VAMPIRELLA #54, it has become obvious to me that there is only one artist suited to the VAMPIRELLA series.

That artist is Gonzalo Mayo. I hope to see a great deal more of his work on this series soon!

WILLIAM MULLER
Atlanta, Ga.

VAMPI #54 was great! The plot, the art, everything!

Rich Corben's "Bowser" was fantastic!

#54 was one of the finest VAMPIRELLA magazines ever!

MARK HUGHES
Dallas, Tex.

Let me just say that the book-length story in VAMPIRELLA #54 was fantastic!

The story was well constructed, and there weren't any inconsistencies. Usually comic book-length stories are terrible, but combine Gonzalo Mayo's art and Gerry Boudreau's story, and you've got a winner!

Can we readers of VAMPI expect more book-length stories?

BRIAN GRAY
Tulsa, Okla.

The only comic I keep is VAMPIRELLA. The reason? Issue #54 is more than enough proof that it's the best magazine ever to grace a newsstand.

This issue in particular was the best I've ever read. It had a depth in characterization I'd thought had left with Archie Goodwin. And, it had only one artist, unlike issue #50 where the different styles disrupted the continuity of events. Gonzalo Mayo, the best VAMPI artist so far, has me head over tails for our vampire girl.

And speaking of love, I feel VAMPI and Adam should think about getting married. I mean, five years of romance and love-making might, someday, make her yearn for pickles and ice cream!

As for "Bowser," it was okay, but after reading the VAMPI pic it kind of made my interest dwindle.

Overall, congratulations Gerry Boudreau and Mayo, you each deserve a Warren Award!

ROBERT J. TOLLESON
Caracas, Venezuela

Very good, very good indeed. The length of the tale alone creates a certain necessity of quality, but in my opinion, Messrs. Boudreau and Mayo have out done themselves. I refer, of course, to VAMPIRELLA #54.

The unique method of handling the narration alone is reason enough to praise the story. Not only does this create excellent characterization of the main characters, but breathes life into those that would normally be but shadows in the background. I am also a great fan of the type of story that slowly winds many seemingly unrelated events into one final confrontation.

One point, however, perhaps rings a little false. Our favorite Draculonne does, I am sure, possess a smile as warm as a Christmas fireplace, and bright, dancing eyes that find wonder in every detail. But those attributes, nice as they are, aren't the first thing a man is going to notice about her. You show her wearing her Draculonian suit, over which is the shortest pair of shorts ever seen this side of Hade's gates, and the first thing he notices is her smile?

That woman is sexy, a fact which, though used as a draw on the covers, is often ignored by your writers. In an outfit like that, she comes very close to indecent exposure, and would surely have a retinue of male types following at a discreet distance.

I don't condone pornography in the pages of Warren Magazines, but think that you should mention, at least occasionally, that VAMPIRELLA has a "nice bod," as some uncouth persons would say.

All the same, I refer you back to my opening statements, and would like to encourage more of the same, or perhaps even continual improvements that, I hope, will keep VAMPI in her position as leader of quality in the graphic arts.

ROBERT M. REED
Oak Park, Ill.

I have been following VAMPIRELLA since issue #49, and have thoroughly enjoyed every issue. The artwork and story always keep me coming back for more. I only wish that VAMPI would act independently from Pendragon, Conrad Van Helsing and especially Adam.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that they don't belong in the story. I just think VAMPI should stand on her own two feet.

Being too close to Adam puts a small wrench in the works of her life, as evinced by issue #54!

JIMMY WHITTEN
Birmingham, Ala.

I've just finished reading VAMPIRELLA #54 and I thought it was great! I've read every issue of VAMPI starting with #12, and let me tell you, I think this one was the best!

Although I'd like to see Esteban Marote, Rich Corben, Berni Wrightson or Neal Adams draw a VAMPIRELLA feature story, they'd have to go a long way to top Gonzalo Mayo. His line work is marvelous!

So when is the next all-Mayo, all-VAMPIRELLA issue?

DAVE TODARELLO
Amherst, Ohio

We have another all-VAMPIRELLA epic by Gonzalo Mayo scripted by Gerry Boudreau scheduled for summer 1977, Dave. It promises to be a beauty!

VAMPIRELLA #54 was done just magnificent! The cover was cool. What a super-heroine VAMPIRELLA is. She was marvelous in action.

Have VAMPIRELLA in the future battle more female demons, witches, and even villains with special powers.

WILSON RIVERA
Brooklyn, N.Y.

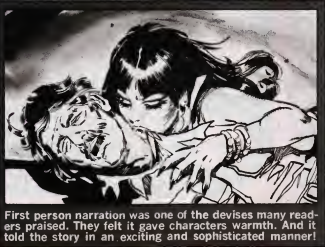
I just finished reading the latest VAMPIRELLA, #54. It is the best magazine that Warren has published in a long, long time.

Gonzalo Mayo is a terrific artist. VAMPI comes to life under his brush.

"Bowser" was an interesting and funny story, but where did the beastie come from, anyhow? Is there any possibility of a sequel involving Bowser's puppies?

DON HORNSBY
Lancaster, Ohio

Great idea, Don. You know, there just might be!



First person narration was one of the devices many readers praised. They felt it gave characters warmth. And it told the story in an exciting and sophisticated manner!

VAMPI'S SCARLET LETTERS

c/o Warren Publishing
145 E. 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

THERE IS ONLY **SCREAMING** THIS COLD AND WIND-SWEPT NIGHT... A **MIND**, SCREAMING IN PAIN... LOST AND NEARLY BROKEN IN A MYRIAD JUMBLE THAT IS... OR RATHER, WAS... THE HALF-REMEMBERED **FRAGMENTS** OF WHAT SEEMED TO BE A **WEEK** OF GROWING **HORROR**.

A MIND BELONGING TO **VAMPIRELLA**, STARCHILD OF **DRAKULON**.

DRAKULON. SO NEAR... SO FAR... NOW **LOST** TO HER **FOREVER**. SWEEP AWAY...

T-TRISTAN--?
ADAM--?

E-EVERYTHING'S
SO... SO **CONFUSING**
NOW--!

VAMPIRELLA

CITY OF GHOSTS



"THEY'RE GONE NOW... DEAD I SUPPOSE... ADAM AND
PENDY... DEAR, SWEET PEN... LOST SOMEWHERE IN THE
HEAT AND THE FIRE OF CUIDAD DEL FANTASMAS. HEAT
...YES... IT WAS NOT THAT DAY..."

...WONDERFUL! NEW
MEXICO'S SO BEAUTIFUL,
ISN'T IT PEN?

OFFF--!



S-SIMPLY... BREATHTAKING
... 'UFFF'... VAMPI, MY DEAR
... 'OFF'--!



"...THAT DAY WE FIRST SAW IT. A STAGE-
COACH, I THINK..."

KRAK

KRAK

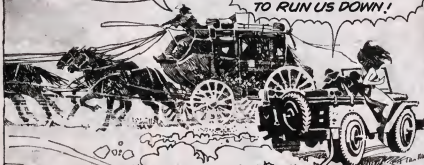
HEEAYHHH!
GIDDYAPPP!



"IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST... S-SO HARD TO THINK!"

HNEAHNYYY!

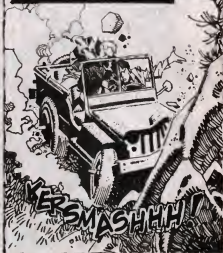
VAMPI--! PEN--! HOLD
ON! T-THAT MANIAC FROM
A JOHN WAYNE FLIC'S TRYIN'
TO RUN US DOWN!



I... I...
'ULP'...

"I... I HIT MY HEAD ON... ON THE DASH-
BOARD... AND THEN THERE WAS
PAIN..."

...AND THEN NOTHING..."





"I AWOKE...PUSHING SLOWLY
THROUGH THE NOTHINGNESS...
H-HOURS, OR PERHAPS, DAYS
LATER...!"

"W-WHERE--?"



"I BLINKED...WAITING FOR MY
E-EYES TO CLEAR. A DULL
THROBBING ROARED LIKE A
PRIDE OF LIONS IN MY EARS..."

EASY.
NOW...

A-ADAM--?
P-PENDY? I--



W-WHO--?
T-TRISTAN--!?

...YOU TOOK
QUITE A BLOW,
DARLING.



...TRISTAN...TRISTAN, MY LOVE.
B-BUT HE WAS D-DEAD...AS
COLD AND EMPTY AND LIFE-
LESS AS DRAKULON, MY HOME
WORLD. A...A WORLD...AND A
LOVE...AND A LIFE...I HAD LEFT
BEHIND SO VERY, VERY LONG AGO."

TRISTAN--!



"AND YET S-SOMEHOW...IN SOME WAY...
HE WAS THERE...WARM AND STRONG
IN MY ARMS ONCE MORE.

I...I ...PULLED HIM TO ME...REVELING
IN HIS NEARNESS...THE ELECTRICITY
OF HIS T-TOUCH...!"

EVERYTHING'S
GOING TO BE JUST FINE
NOW VAMPI. TRUST ME
...I'LL SEE TO THAT...!



"...A-AND ODDLY, I IGNORED...FORGOT...
EVERYTHING ELSE! P-PENDRAGON...
ADAM...!"

...AND I'LL NEVER
LET YOU LEAVE ME
AGAIN. EVER!

OH,
TRISTAN...!

"ALL THAT SEEMED LIKE...LIKE A
DREAM, THEN, JUST A FAR AWAY
AND QUICKLY FADING DREAM FROM
WHICH I HAD ONLY THEN AWAKENED."



"I-I FOUND TIME FOR QUESTIONS LATER..."

...THIS PLACE?
YOU ARE HERE AND WE
ARE TOGETHER AGAIN...
FOREVER.

THE HOW OR THE
WHY OF IT DON'T MATTER,
MY LOVE. JUST ACCEPT
IT FOR WHAT IT IS!

B-BUT THIS TOWN--!
IT'S...IT'S SO OLD...
SO UNREAL...!



IT'S AS REAL AS
YOU WISH IT TO BE, VAMPI.
I...THIS TOWN...CAN GIVE
YOU EVERYTHING!

TRISTAN, T-THERE
WERE...OTHERS WITH
ME. I--



OTHERS, DARLING? I'M
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

TWO, A YOUNG MAN
NAMED ADAM VAN
HELSING...



B-B-BARKEEP
...URP'...

...AND A SWEET,
WONDERFUL OLD
MAGICIAN...



PENDRAGON
...PENDY...

...ANOTHER ROUND...
IF YOU WILL... 'HIC'...
MY GOOD MAN...



YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN,
VAMPI. THERE ARE NO OTHERS...
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANYONE
EXCEPT YOU AND ME. YOU HAVE TO
BELIEVE THAT, I...

SHERIFF!

THET'S MUH
WOMAN, SHERIFF...
AN' I AIM TA TAKE
WHUT'S RIGHTFUL
MINE!

I'M
FOR TA
BUT I
FROM

I'M NOT LOOKING
FOR **TROUBLE**, STRANGER,
BUT I **WON'T RUN**
FROM IT, EITHER.

BLAM!

BLAM!

**SLAP
LEATHER,
SHERIFF!**

OH, NO...
NONONONONO--!

S-SHERIFF

'UGHHHH--

"**INSANE!** I-IT HAS TO BE...THERE IS NO ...**NO OTHER EXPLANATION.** A T-TOWN... **SOMEWHERE IN THE WASTELANDS OF N-NEW MEXICO...** A TOWN THAT S-SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN. ADAM. TRISTAN. THE G-GUNFIGHT..."

A-ADAM...
SOB'...!

H-HES...
'CHOKE...
O-DEAD...!



DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM, MY DEAR. HE WILL NEVER...NEVER... BOTHER YOU...OR US...AGAIN. I SWEAR!

...SOB'...!



COME ALONG, VAMPI. I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.

IT'S OVER NOW AND WE CAN BE TOGETHER FOR ALWAYS. THAT WILL BE NICE, WON'T IT, DEAR?



I WON'T LET ANYONE...



...OR ANYTHING...



...EVER TAKE YOU FROM ME AGAIN. YOU'LL LIKE IT HERE, DARLING. I KNOW YOU WILL! WHY, IN A WHILE, I'LL BET YOU'LL NEVER WANT TO LEAVE!



"I COULDN'T SLEEP...SO MUCH HAD HAPPENED...SO MUCH I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND."

CLICK!

I...I CAN'T BELIEVE A-ANY OF THIS!
A-ADAM...ADAM DEAD...
AND PENDY...GOD KNOWS
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HIM!
I--HUN--?!

"IT WAS A...NIGHTMARE...AND I COULDN'T WAKE UP...NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED."

LOCKED!
B-BUT WHY?

"SO VERY MUCH HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM ME. ADAM. P-PENDY. THE P-PAST. MUCH WAS GONE."

B-BUT THERE WAS ONE THING, UNFORTUNATELY, THAT NO MAN...NOT...NOT EVEN TRISTAN...COULD TAKE..."

"...THE HUNGER...THE NEED FOR HUMAN BLOOD! ALREADY, WITHOUT MY LIFE-GIVING SERUM, I WAS GROWING WEAK!"

SOON I WON'T BE ABLE TO...TO HELP MYSELF. I...WAIT! T-THAT VOICE!

O-ONE MORE...
'HIC'...FOR THE ROAD...
'HIC'...G-GOOD SIR...
'ERP'...!

PENDY...!
OH, PEN--!

W-WHY, VAMPI,
MY DEAR... 'HIC'...
I'M P-PARTAKING... 'ERP'
...OF S-SOME LIQUID
REFRESHMENT...!

W-WON'T YOU...
'HIC'...JOIN
ME...?

"I HAD TO RUN...TO ESCAPE, SOMEHOW,
THE MADNESS THAT SURROUNDED ME."



"AND THROUGH IT ALL FLOWED THE SOFT, SOFT VOICE OF...TRISTAN...
MY LOVE...MY LIFE. I-IT EVEN SEEMED...BRIEFLY...THAT WE WERE ONCE
MORE BACK ON...ON DRAKULON. THE SUN WAS SO WARM...SO FILLING.

A-AND THE
STREAMS
RAN RED
ONCE AGAIN.

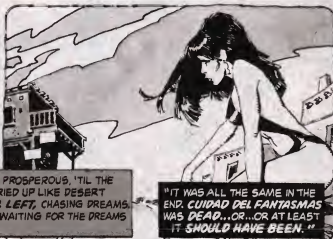
I CAN GIVE YOU
ALL THIS, VAMPI, FOR
AS LONG AS YOU
LIKE.

ALL THIS AND
MORE...IF ONLY YOU
WILL STAY...!

"WAIT...? SOMETHING HE SAID...THE TOWN...WHAT
WAS...? YES, I REMEMBER NOW. CUIDAD DEL
FANTASMAS...A SPANISH NAME...THE CITY OF
GHOSTS! SUCH A SAD STORY!"

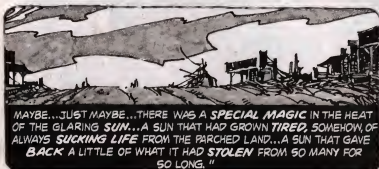


"THE MINING TOWN...ALIVE AND PROSPEROUS, 'TIL THE
SILVER PETERED OUT...HAD DRIED UP LIKE DESERT
TUMBLEWEED. THE PEOPLE EITHER LEFT, CHASING DREAMS,
OR REMAINED...AND...AND DIED...WAITING FOR THE DREAMS
TO F-FIND THEM.



"IT WAS ALL THE SAME IN THE
END. CUIDAD DEL FANTASMAS
WAS DEAD...OR...OR AT LEAST
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN."

"BUT THE HOT, SWIRLING SAND REFUSED TO COVER ITS BONES OF
FADED WOOD AND ADOBE...THE WIND BLEW COOL AND SWEET FROM
DISTANT MOUNTAINS AND THE TOWN SHIVERED AND LONGED FOR
DEATH...BUT FOUND, INSTEAD, A NEW LIFE."



MAYBE...JUST MAYBE...THERE WAS A SPECIAL MAGIC IN THE HEAT OF
THE GLARING SUN...A SUN THAT HAD GROWN TIRED, SOMEHOW, OF
ALWAYS SUCKING LIFE FROM THE PARCHED LAND...A SUN THAT GAVE
BACK A LITTLE OF WHAT IT HAD STOLEN FROM SO MANY FOR
SO LONG."

"AND...AND SO IT LIVED...AND WAITED AND
PRAYED FOR THE DAY THAT OTHERS WOULD
DISCOVER IT ONCE MORE..."



...WOULD PUT
AN END TO
THE EMPTI-
NESS...THE
LONELINESS
...LIKE A
CHILD GROWN
TIRED OF
PLAYING BY
ITSELF."

I...I COULDN'T
STAY HERE TRISTAN
...NOT...NOT EVEN IF
I WANTED TO...!

"B-BUT...MY THOUGHTS...SO...SO
SCATTERED...J-JUST BITS AND
PIECES. I...I REMEMBER THE
JAIL..."

...C-CAN'T! I...
I'M NOT...LIKE...I ONCE
WAS. I...WE...HAVE
BOTH CHANGED. I-IF
YOU TRULY L-LOVE ME,
YOU WON'T STAND IN MY
WAY...!

NO--! I WON'T GIVE
YOU UP...NOT NOW...NOT
EVER. DON'T YOU SEE,
DARLING, YOU ARE ALL I
HAVE NOW. ALL I EVER
WANT--!

...I'M SORRY...
BUT I MUST...I NEED...
TO BE FREE. ABOVE ALL
ELSE I NEED THAT.

NO!

KRASSSHH!

I...I...DON'T LIKE
YOU LIKE THAT...I...WON'T
LET YOU L-LEAVE...!

"I...REMEMBER THE END...THE
FIRE..."

OFFICE

V-VAMPI...
COME BACK... 'CHOKE'
...COME B-BACK...!

KOFF! KAFF!
S-SO WEAK...CAN'T
REMAIN IN THIS FORM
MUCH LONGER--!

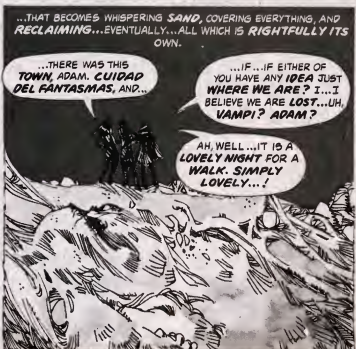
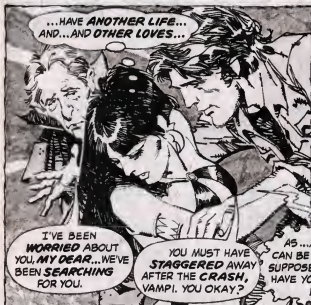
...A-AND THERE WERE VOICES...
HUNDREDS OF LOST, MOURNFUL VOICES
CRYING OUT AROUND ME AS...AS I
RAN FROM THE RAGING INFERNO.

WAS IT...ONLY...
THE WIND...?"

"OR WAS IT...S-SOMETHING...MUCH,
MUCH MORE...?"

Y-YOU C-CAN'T
LEAVE ME... 'SOB'...
I...NEED YOU,
D-DARLING...

NNOO! COME
BACK! COME
BACK!



THE COMIC BOOKS

By Joe Brancatelli

ONE DOWN...

It would be patently false to say Charlton left any great artistic legacy when it folded its comic-book tent late in September. Nevertheless, its checkered 20-year record as the industry's most durable also-ran did offer some isolated bright spots.

There was always Steve Ditko and his long association with the Derby, Conn. company founded by the Santangelo family. Besides a mountain of sparkling artwork on dreadfully written ghost, horror and science-fiction tales, Ditko produced a number of outstanding stories for characters such as Capt. Atom and The Blue Beetle.

Best of all, perhaps, Charlton was the only company where Ditko was given sufficient freedom to successfully commercialize his libertarian philosophies and his legendary and controversial Mr. A character. What developed was *The Question*, a Mr. A surrogate written for mass consumption, a character as unique as any ever created in comic books. It has always been my opinion that the single best comic book ever produced was *Mysterious Suspense*, a summer one-shot containing three 8-page Question tales of truly epic proportions.

What was most significant about Charlton, however, was its unique way of conducting business and the ramifications its demise has for the rest of the doddering comic-book industry.

Charlton was, analysts will eventually write, one of the few general-interest periodical publishers to maintain a long-term interest in comic books. Even today it remains a small but powerful force in the consumer market, buoyed by its perennial best seller, *Hit Parade*, a horde of crossword-puzzle books, a number of "hot" citizen-band radio magazines and just enough "fad" titles to keep rolling along.

Above all, Charlton was one of a handful of publishers that ever had total control over the destiny of its

comic books. Aided by freelancers, they generated the Editorial content, of course, but they also had their own four-color presses, and through its Capital Distributing subsidiary, also disseminated the books.

That such a compact organization—which was also a tightly-knit family-owned company—decided it could no longer be bothered with comic books bodes badly for the industry as a whole. No remaining comic-book publisher has control over its printing, surely the most explosive economic factor in today's comic-book publishing business, and that makes all of them even more vulnerable to a new round of inflation than Charlton was.

As for Charlton's comic operation itself, it appeared the company would remain in the comic business even after a corporate shakeup—which resulted in publisher John Santangelo wresting control from a now-deposed young executive who had married into the family. As late as Wednesday, Sept. 15, Charlton had decided to continue publishing 19 titles—mostly ghost and love books—and discontinue only those magazines using characters licensed from King Features. But by Friday the 17th, the word had gone out that Santangelo had decided to gut comics production altogether.

ONE TO GO...

About the same time Charlton threw in the four-color towel, the powers-that-be at Western Publishing decided to consolidate its line of Gold Key comics and concentrate only on books featuring Disney characters.

All other Gold Key comic books were killed.

Only months ago, Gold Key sources say, the company was considering a relatively large upgrading of its small adventure line, but consistent sales declines and the generally weak economy apparently dictated the consolidation.

On top of all this, it has been reliably reported that

Western would love to sell off the remnants of its comic-book operation. Unfortunately for the Racine, Wisconsin corporation, no one's been dumb enough to express interest.

AND THE REST TO FOLLOW?

Let us think this shuffling is an indication that comic books are beginning to fray only around the fringes, it should be noted that things continue to worsen at both major companies.

At National, for example, it has been a badly kept secret for months that Warner Communications' entire publishing and distribution division is available to the first company making a reasonable offer. Besides National comics, the Warner publishing operation includes *Mad* magazine, Warner Paperback Library and Independent News, the nation's largest periodical distribution company.

The reason Warner wants out of publishing in general and comics in specific is simple: the publishing division had its second consecutive yearly loss of \$5 million in 1975. Even the final disposal of Warner's money-eating foreign publishing operation may not offset 1976 declines being suffered because of a sudden, unexpected economic slowdown in this year's second and third quarters. For the record, both National comics and Warner Paperback Library lost money in 1975 while profits for Independent News and *Mad* declined from 1974 levels.

Moreover, the two-year loss of \$10 million in publishing compares very unfavorably with Warner's three other wholly-owned divisions: Warner records and music publishing earned \$96.8 million profit in the same two years; Warner TV and motion pictures made \$95.6 million in profits in 1974 and 1975; and 1975 marked the first profitable year (\$2 million) for Warner's much-touted Cable communications division.

In short, a company earning more than \$75 million annually in pre-tax income and expecting massive future profits from cable television is not going to be interested in an unprofitable publishing division with almost no hope of profits.

Soon as the right buyer tumbles along, National Comics and the whole publishing division will be sold.

Marvel's parent corporation, Cadence, has the opposite problem. It is a small conglomerate—by comparison to Warner—and seems to be constantly wracked by internal corporate haggling between chairman Sheldon Feinberg and dissidents like Bernard Stack.

Cadence simply doesn't have much money to waste these days since it carries a number of marginal subsidiary firms. Marvel, operating on monthly profits of less than \$1,000 on some titles and at a loss on some others, is still being operated because its existence makes a profit for another division, Curtis Circulation.

Now this type of corporate symbiosis is fine when the economy is good, as the first quarter indicated 1976 might be. But 1976 is disappointing even the best analysts and corporations of Cadence's size and economic scope will have to take a hard look at every division at year end. Marvel is marginal—valuable only as a by-product rather than an individual commodity—and so is Hudson Vitamin, another Cadence division.

It is entirely conceivable, Cadence executives admit privately, that one or more of these marginal divisions may have to be terminated or sold off to keep Cadence profitable—and a respectable investment risk in the eyes of Wall Street.

Marvel Comics would be a prime limb for pruning and it may not be coincidental that Stan Lee recently had his offices on the Cadence executives' floors taken away, leaving him only his Marvel offices on the rank-and-filers' floor.

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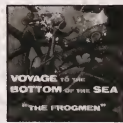
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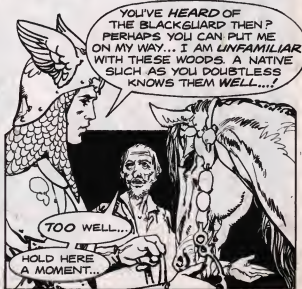
DETE WAS SPRINKLING HIS POPPIES WHEN THE **WHITE CHARGER** GALLOPED UP AND **PLANTED** ITS HOOVES IN HIS GARDEN. HE HADN'T **SEEN** A **WHITE CHARGER** IN **FORTY** YEARS-- NOT SINCE THE TIME HE WAS **TWENTY** AND OWNED HIS **OWN** WAR HORSE-- AND HE **STOOD** ENVELOPED IN A **SUDDEN RUSH** OF NOSTALGIA.

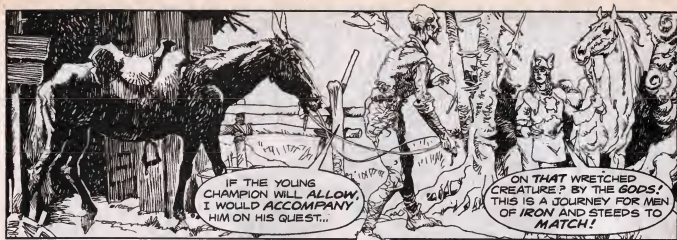
THE YOUTHFUL KNIGHT'S ORDERS WERE **CURT** AND A BIT **BRASHER** THAN NECESSARY AND, HAD DETE **HIMSELF** BEEN A STRAPLING, HE MIGHT HAVE CONSIDERED THEM WORTHY OF **CHALLENGE**.

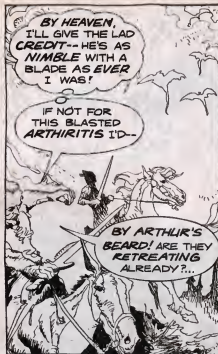
BUT HE'D PUT THAT SORT OF THING **BEHIND** HIM LONG AGO. THESE DAYS IT WAS EASIER TO MERELY **SHRUG**, CARRY OUT THE **BIDDING** AND HOPE THE INTRUDER WOULD **LEAVE** QUICKLY SO HE COULD RESUME TENDING HIS GARDEN...



RUSTY BUCKLERS



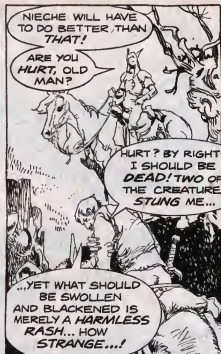




BY HEAVEN,
I'LL GIVE THE LAD
CREDIT--HE'S AS
NIMBLE WITH A
BLADE AS EVER
I WAS!

IF NOT FOR
THIS BLASTED
ARTHRITIS I'D--

BY ARTHUR'S
BEARD! ARE THEY
RETREATING
ALREADY?...

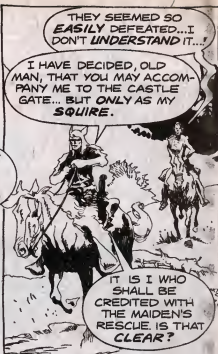


NIECHE WILL HAVE
TO DO BETTER THAN
THAT!

ARE YOU
HURT, OLD
MAN?

HURT? BY RIGHTS
I SHOULD BE
DEAD! TWO OF
THE CREATURES
STUNG ME...

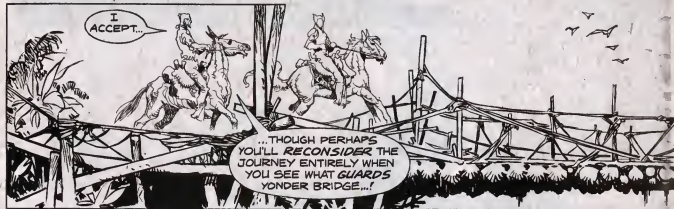
...YET WHAT SHOULD
BE SWOLLEN
AND BLACKENED IS
MERELY A HARMLESS
RASH... HOW
STRANGE....!



THEY SEEMED SO
EASILY DEFEATED...I
DON'T UNDERSTAND IT...

I HAVE DECIDED, OLD
MAN, THAT YOU MAY ACCOM-
PANY ME TO THE CASTLE
GATE... BUT ONLY AS MY
SQUIRE.

IT IS I WHO
SHALL BE
CREDITED WITH
THE MAIDEN'S
RESCUE. IS THAT
CLEAR?



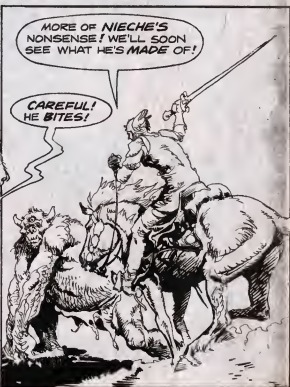
I
ACCEPT...

...THOUGH PERHAPS
YOU'LL RECONSIDER
THE JOURNEY ENTIRELY WHEN
YOU SEE WHAT GUARDS
YONDER BRIDGE...!



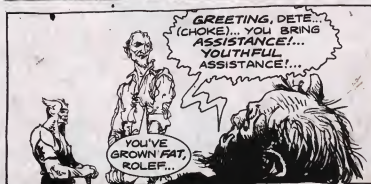
WHAT
IS IT?

'TIS THE OGRE
ROLEF... REGARD
HIM NOT
LIGHTLY.



MORE OF NIECHE'S
NONSENSE! WE'LL SOON
SEE WHAT HE'S MADE OF!

CAREFUL!
HE BITES!



HEH-HEH... (CHOKE!)...
I'VE GROWN OLD, MY
FAITHFUL ENEMY...
AND CARELESS...

THE BRIDGE IS...
(CHOKE!)...IS YOURS
AT LAST...SEND TIDINGS
TO MY MASTER...(SIGH!)...

WHAT TROUBLES
YOU NOW, OLD MAN?
WE'RE NEARLY AT OUR
DESTINATION--SEE!
THE CASTLE'S
TURRETS!

WE ARE IN THE
GLADE OF FLAME...
HOME OF THE LEGENDARY
FIRE LIZARD. WE
SHOULD HAVE BEEN
ATTACKED BY NOW!

THEN WHAT BE
THE CAUSE OF THIS
BLACKENED SOIL? NO.
THE BEAST IS REAL
ENOUGH ALL RIGHT...

I SEE NO
FIRE
LIZARD...

PERHAPS 'TIS
LEGEND ONLY...

HOLD!

WHAT BE
THIS?

YOUR FIRE
LIZARD SEEMS TO
HAVE EXPIRED...
FROM OLD AGE
BY THE LOOKS
OF IT.

DRAGONS ARE
MORTAL TOO, YOU KNOW...
EVEN NIECHE'S PETS MUST
EVENTUALLY SUCCUMB
TO THE GRIM REAPER...

HE COULD SLAY TEN
WARRIORS WITH A SINGLE
FIERY BREATH...

COME... EVENING
DRAWS NIGH. THE CASTLE
BLAGMORE AWAITS.



I AM CALEF
OF RHODES, YOUR
HUMBLE CHAMPION.

...ER... THIS IS MY
SQUIRE, DETE... NOW,
IF MY LADY WILL INFORM US
AS TO THE SORCERER'S RE-
TREAT WE WILL PROCEED
WITH HIS EXECUTION...

MY LADY, YOUR
ENDURANCE
IS AT AN END.

MY GRATITUDE
KNOWS NO BOUNDS...
ER... WHICH OF YOU AM
I TO THANK?



SUPPER?...
WHY HOW GRACIOUS...
WE... UH...

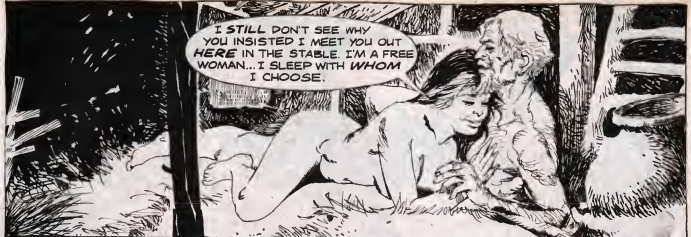


NIECHE? OH, I'M
AFRAID HE'S DEAD... SEVEN
YEARS NOW I BELIEVE... IT'S HARD TO
KEEP TRACK OF TIME IN THIS DRAFTY
MONSTROSITY, LET ALONE KEEP
IT DUSTED.

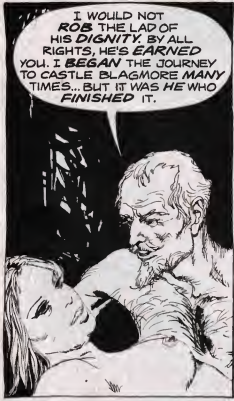
WILL YOU
BE STAYING
TO SUPPER?



I'M SO GLAD
YOU'VE COME
AT LAST...

A black and white comic panel showing a man and a woman in a stable. The man is leaning over the woman, who is lying down. They are both looking at each other. The man has a beard and is wearing a simple tunic. The woman has long hair and is wearing a simple dress. The background shows the interior of a stable with wooden walls and a ladder.

I STILL DON'T SEE WHY
YOU INSISTED I MEET YOU OUT
HERE IN THE STABLE. I'M A FREE
WOMAN... I SLEEP WITH WHOM
I CHOOSE.

A black and white comic panel showing a man and a woman in a stable. The man is leaning over the woman, who is lying down. They are both looking at each other. The man has a beard and is wearing a simple tunic. The woman has long hair and is wearing a simple dress. The background shows the interior of a stable with wooden walls and a ladder.

I WOULD NOT
ROB THE LAD OF
HIS **DIGNITY**. BY ALL
RIGHTS, HE'S **EARNED**
YOU. I **BEGAN** THE JOURNEY
TO CASTLE **BLAGMORE** MANY
TIMES... BUT IT WAS **HE** WHO
FINISHED IT.


A black and white comic panel showing a man and a woman in a stable. The man is leaning over the woman, who is lying down. They are both looking at each other. The man has a beard and is wearing a simple tunic. The woman has long hair and is wearing a simple dress. The background shows the interior of a stable with wooden walls and a ladder.

DO YOU
HATE HIM,
DETE?

HATE HIM?
WHY, IN HEAVEN'S
NAME?

HOW COULD I HATE SOMEONE
WHO TOOK MY NOSE OUT OF
THE ROSES FOR A DAY...


... AND LET ME RELIVE...
THROUGH HIS NAIVETY... ALL
THE **SPLENDOR** AND
GLORIOUS NONSENSE
OF YOUTH?

A black and white comic panel showing a man and a woman in a stable. The man is leaning over the woman, who is lying down. They are both looking at each other. The man has a beard and is wearing a simple tunic. The woman has long hair and is wearing a simple dress. The background shows the interior of a stable with wooden walls and a ladder.

HOW CAN
YOU **HATE** SOME-
ONE WHO BRINGS NEW
GLORY TO AN OLD
DREAM?

AND WAS
THE DREAM
WORTH
WAITING
FOR?

ALL THE
SWEETER
FOR THE
WAITINGS...

A black and white comic panel showing a man and a woman in a stable. The man is leaning over the woman, who is lying down. They are both looking at each other. The man has a beard and is wearing a simple tunic. The woman has long hair and is wearing a simple dress. The background shows the interior of a stable with wooden walls and a ladder.

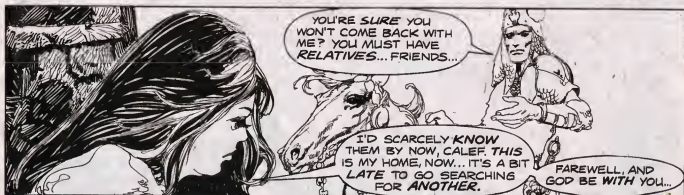
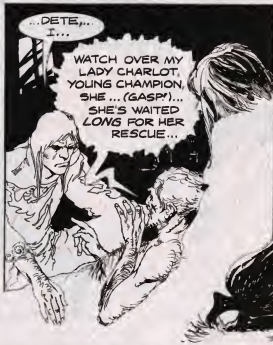
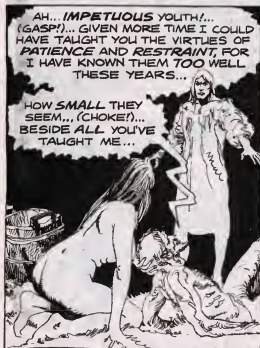
INSOLENT PIG!
WOULDN'T KIDNAP
THE LADY BENEATH
MY VERY NOSE?

CRASH

A black and white comic panel showing a man and a woman in a stable. The man is leaning over the woman, who is lying down. They are both looking at each other. The man has a beard and is wearing a simple tunic. The woman has long hair and is wearing a simple dress. The background shows the interior of a stable with wooden walls and a ladder.

CALEF,
WAIT--
UH!

EEEEEEEE!



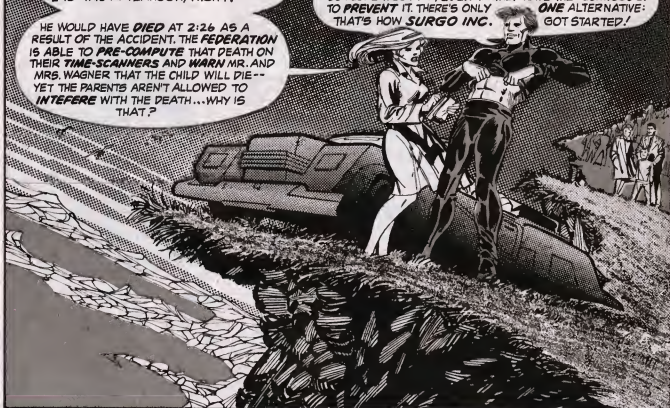
STAND-IN

NOW, LET ME SEE IF I'VE GOT THIS RIGHT, MR. MCHENRY: ACCORDING TO THE **NORMAL** CHAIN OF **CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS**, THE WAGNER CHILD WOULD HAVE GONE **OFF** THE CLIFF INSIDE THE AUTOMOBILE AT 2:16 THIS AFTERNOON, RIGHT?

HE WOULD HAVE **DIED** AT 2:26 AS A RESULT OF THE ACCIDENT. THE **FEDERATION** IS ABLE TO **PRE-COMPUTE** THAT DEATH ON THEIR **TIME-SCANNERS** AND **WARN** MR. AND MRS. WAGNER THAT THE CHILD WILL DIE-- YET THE PARENTS AREN'T ALLOWED TO **INTERFERE** WITH THE DEATH...WHY IS THAT?

RELIGION, MISS REYNOLDS. RELIGION HAS A **GRIP** ON THIS PLANET, AS YOU KNOW, AND THE GOVERNMENT **ABIDES** WITH ITS DOCTRINES.

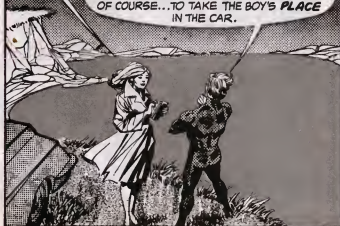
IF NATURE DICTATES THAT SOMEONE MUST DIE...THEN SOMEONE MUST DIE, **EVEN** IF THEY HAVE THE **TECHNOLOGY** TO **PREVENT** IT. THERE'S ONLY **ONE** ALTERNATIVE: THAT'S HOW **SURGO INC.** GOT STARTED!



AND YOU'RE A **"SURGO"...** A **SURROGATE?**

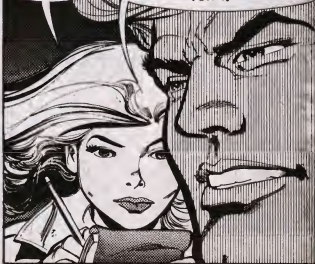
RIGHT. THOUGH THE WAGNER'S CANT ACTUALLY **PREVENT** A DEATH, THEY CAN ATTEMPT TO SUBSTITUTE THEIR CHILD'S DEATH FOR MINE.

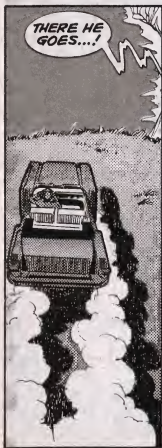
THAT'S WHY THEY CONTACTED MY COMPANY AND **HIRED** ME. I AGREE...FOR A **SUM**, OF COURSE...TO TAKE THE BOY'S **PLACE** IN THE CAR.

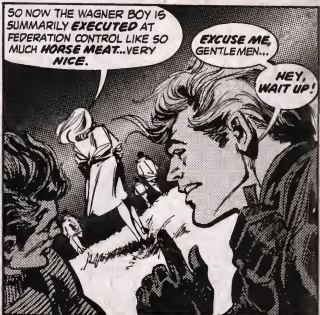
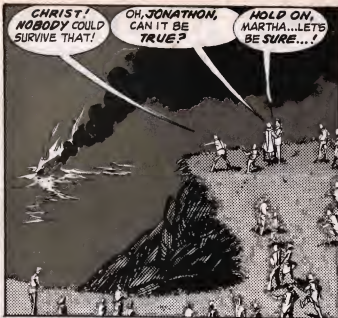


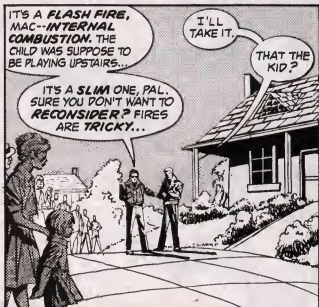
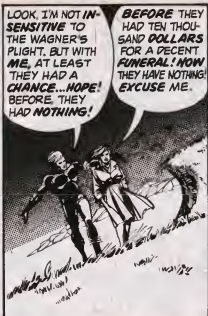
YOU'LL **DIE** FOR THE CHILD? WHAT'S IN IT FOR **YOU?**

TEN THOUSAND **DOLLARS** FROM MR. WAGNER IF I SURVIVE THE CRASH...ETERNAL **PEACE** IF I DON'T.

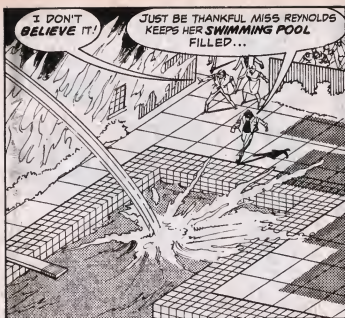












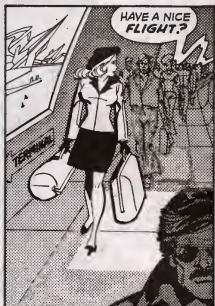
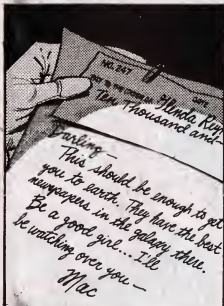


IT'S BEEN OVER **TWO HOURS**,
HONEY. THEY'LL **NEVER** FIND
HIM IN THAT CURRENT. LET ME
TAKE YOU HOME, HUH...?

...I NEVER...**REALLY**
TOLD HIM I LOVED
HIM...



IT'S...IT'S HIS **INSURANCE**
MONEY...HE SIGNED IT OVER
TO YOU...**ALL** OF IT...



**A
WARREN
COMMUNICATIONS
PRODUCTION**



**MAGNIFICENT
EPHEMERAL**

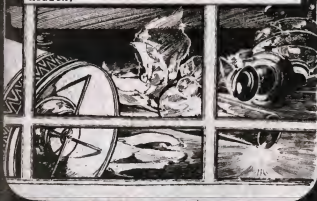
**CINEMATOGRAPHY BY
RAMON TORRENTS**

**WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
BRUCE JONES**

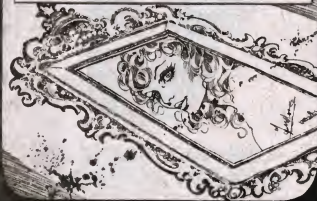
Mr. Henry Mackowitz
R.K.O. Radio Pictures Inc.
Hollywood, California

Dear Hank,
It's been ages! How have you been?

I understand that the studio has been sold to Desilu. Remarkable to think that a company which produced pictures like "King Kong" is relegated to a series of television sound stages. Nevertheless, I hope this letter gets forwarded to your present address and finds you in good health!



Two days after Scott's death, I received in the mail his diary of one year, posted apparently by him that fateful evening in 1948. The last entry is scrawled nearly to the point of illegibility and written, obviously, after the victim's demise.



I am placing the diary in your hands, dear Hank, not only because you directed "MAGNIFICENT EPHEMERAL," and have a right to know...but because Scott regarded you as one of his closest friends and confidants.



After much deliberation and mental anguish, I have reached a decision with myself over something which deeply concerns not only you and me, but all of the industry. I pray that I am doing the right thing in writing you about this.



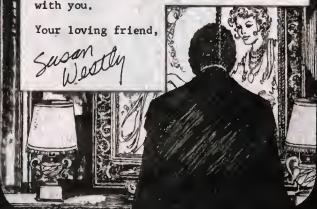
It does contain--with careful scrutiny--all of the events leading up to Scott's death and, therein, the answers not only to that remarkable enigma, but a conundrum which has haunted Hollywood for nearly two decades.



I leave--unjustly perhaps--the decision regarding its publication to you. I can no longer look upon either of their lives with objectivity. That two men would destroy themselves over a woman--any woman--is beyond my scope of understanding. Yet there it is. God be with you.

Your loving friend,

Susan Westly





March 3, 1948: At last a story worthy of my preeminent talents! Pete sent me over to R.K.O. today to dig up background for a Sunday spread he wants to run on Gloria Winsome. I've heard the name all my life but never seen the picture...



WELL, WELL!...
THE PRODIGAL
SON!

COME TO
SIGN A NEW
CONTRACT?

THANKS, HANK, BUT
I FIND THE **NEWSPAPER**
GAME A BIT MORE
SECURE...



..BESIDES, I DON'T
THINK THEY'RE CASTING
TWENTY-EIGHT YEAR OLD
CHILD STARS THESE
DAYS.

WHICH
ONE IS **GLORIA
WINSOME**?

SHE'S NOT **THERE**,
SCOTT. WHY THE SUDDEN
INTEREST IN ANCIENT
HISTORY?



MY EDITOR WANTS TO RUN A
FEATURE ON HER NEXT WEEK; YOU
KNOW, HOW SHE BECAME AN **OVERNIGHT**
SUCCESS, WHAT SHE WAS LIKE IN "**REAL**"
LIFE, THEORIES ON WHY SHE
DISAPPEARED.

WHY ISN'T
SHE PART OF YOUR
ROGUE'S GALLERY?

GLORIA WINSOME
WASN'T A PART OF **ANYTHING**!...
ESPECIALLY TINGEL TOWN. SHE
WAS **ONE OF A KIND**...



HERE... I USED
TO HAVE HER ON MY
DESK, ONLY I COULDN'T
SEEM TO GET ANY **WORK**
DONE WITH THOSE **BIG
BLUE EYES** ON ME...

WOW! I
SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!
GEE, I DON'T THINK
I EVER TOOK A
CLOSE LOOK AT HER
'TILL NOW....!

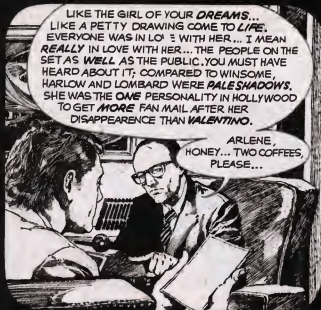


BETTER NOT
LOOK **TOO LONG**...
BIGGER MEN HAVE
BEEN SMITTEN.

THAT'S CUT FROM
THE FRONT COVER OF
PHOTOPLAY--1936
EDITION... THEIR ONE AND
ONLY SEVENTEEN MILLION
COPY SELLER. WANT
SOME COFFEE?

THANKS.

I CAN ALMOST
SEE HER **BREATHING**!
WHAT WAS SHE **LIKE**,
HANK?



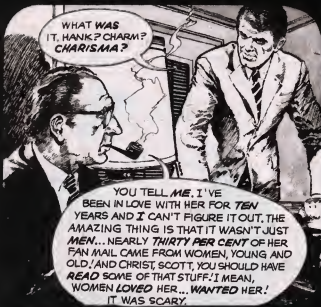
LIKE THE GIRL OF YOUR *DREAMS*... LIKE A PETTY DRAWING COME TO *LIFE*, EVERYONE WAS IN LOVE WITH HER... I MEAN *REALLY* IN LOVE WITH HER... THE PEOPLE ON THE SET AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC. YOU MUST HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT; COMPARED TO WINSOME, HARLOW AND LOMBARD WERE *PALE SHADOWS*. SHE WAS THE *ONE* PERSONALITY IN HOLLYWOOD TO GET *MORE* FAN MAIL AFTER HER DISAPPEARANCE THAN *VALENTINO*.

ARLENE, HONEY... TWO COFFEES, PLEASE...



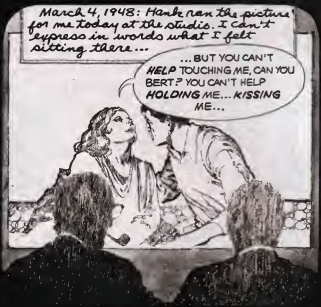
AND AFTER ONLY *ONE* PICTURE...?

BUT WHAT A PICTURE! MY BEST WORK, CERTAINLY... HELL, *EVERYONE'S* BEST WORK! AFTER 'MAGNIFICENT EPHEMERAL' NOTHING WAS *EVER* THE SAME FOR THIS TOWN, EVEN THE SCRIPTER WAS WRITING FOR HER. TED KESTLY, OUR 1ST UNIT CAMERA MAN INVENTED *WHOLE NEW* ANGLES FOR HER! EDITH HEAD ONCE TOLD ME SHE'S *NEVER* DESIGNED LOVE LIER CLOTHES THAN THE ONES SHE DID FOR GLORIA'S PICTURE.



WHAT WAS IT, HANK? CHARM? CHARISMA?

YOU TELL ME, I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH HER FOR *TEN* YEARS AND I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT, THE AMAZING THING IS THAT IT WASN'T JUST *MEN*... NEARLY *THIRTY PER CENT* OF HER FAN MAIL CAME FROM WOMEN, YOUNG AND OLD. AND CHRIST, SCOTT, YOU SHOULD HAVE READ SOME OF THAT STUFF. I MEAN, WOMEN LOVED HER... *WANTED* HER. IT WAS SCARY.



March 4, 1948: Hank ran the picture for me today at the studio. I can't express in words what I felt sitting there...

... BUT YOU CAN'T HELP TOUCHING ME, CAN YOU BERT? YOU CAN'T HELP HOLDING ME... KISSING ME...



... JESUS...

I KNOW, EVERYONE ON THE SET *HATED* THAT BASTARD'S GUTS WHILE *ENVYING* HIM AT THE SAME TIME. WE DID THAT SCENE IN *ONE* TAKE... I COULDN'T STAND TO SEE HER KISS HIM AGAIN.

SOME GUY IN CHICAGO *SWEARS* THAT WHEN THEY RAN THE PICTURE THERE, YOU COULD SEE THE SCREEN *SMOKING*...



The END
R.K.O. PICTURES INC.

LISTEN, I'VE HEARD *RUMORS*...

ABOUT THE FAMOUS *NUDE* SCENE? YEAH, I KNOW, SUPPOSEDLY SHE DID A *QUICKIE SKIN FLICK* TO GET BUS FARE TO HOLLYWOOD. WHO KNOWS? I'VE NEVER SEEN IT AND NOBODY HAD *GUTS* ENOUGH TO ASK HER AFTER SHE BECAME A STAR. ALL ONE CAN DO IS IMAGINE... *GOD*... IT'S ENOUGH TO *RUIN* A MARRIAGE...!

... JUST ANOTHER **WEEK** IS ALL, PETE... YEAH, I WANT TO GET MORE **DETAILS** ON HER DISAPPEARANCE. NO... HANK DOESN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT IT... HE GAVE ME A FEW **LEADS** THOUGH...

TELEPHONE



GREAT KIESTER, NO? TROUBLE IS, SHE WANTS TO GET MARRIED, I'VE HAD MY **FILL** OF THAT CRAP, TAKE ALL YER GODDAMN **MONEY**...



OH YEAH... YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT **GLORIA WINSOME**. GEE, KID, I DON'T THINK I CAN **HELP** YOU. THE THING IS, SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY **IMMEDIATE** RELATIVES. HAVE YOU TALKED TO **BOB ALBRIGHT** AT **FOX**?

SHE WAS A **LADY**, MISTER, WITH A **CAPITOL** "L"... AND AH'VE WAITED ON ALL THE **BIG SHOTS**!

IF YOU **REALLY** KNEW HER, YOU'D KNOW WHY I CAN'T FORGET ABOUT HER...!

HELL, **NOBODY** KNOWS WHERE SHE IS, THAZ THE **MYSTERY** OF THE CENTURY. WHY DON'T YOU JEZ HAVE A **DRINK** AND **FORGET** ABOUT HER?

YEAH... YOU GOT IT **BAD** ALL RIGHT... JEZ LIKE **ALL** THE REST...!

March 10, 1948: I'm spending too much time on this story but I'm too caught up in the thing to quit now. Talked to **Artie Bennett**, Hank's lighting man for "**Ephemeral**"...

YEAH, THE OLD TOWN'S JUST NOT THE SAME... THESE DAMN **UNIONS**, YA KNOW. I WAS GLAD TO GET OUT OF **PICTURES**. YOU ASK ME, THIS TELEVISION THING IS GONNA **KILL** MOVIES...

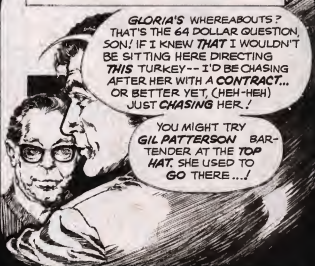
THANKS, **DOLL**...



March 12, 1948: I talked to **Bob Albright** at **FOX**...

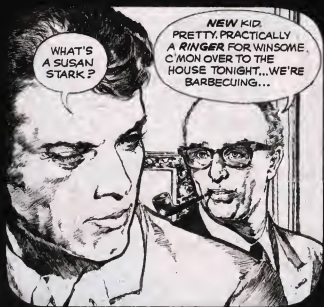
GLORIA'S WHEREABOUTS? THAT'S THE **64 DOLLAR** QUESTION, SON! IF I KNEW **THAT** I WOULDN'T BE SITTING HERE DIRECTING **THIS TURKEY**-- I'D BE CHASING AFTER HER WITH A **CONTRACT**... OR BETTER YET, (HEH-HEH) JUST CHASING HER.!

YOU MIGHT TRY **GIL PATTERSON** BARTENDER AT THE **TOP HAT**. SHE USED TO GO THERE ...!



April 9, 1948: We've postponed the feature indefinitely. Pete's bring a report about this despite the fact that I'm no closer than I've ever been. Damn it! There must be a **clue**...





SAN FRANCISCO? BUT WE JUST GOT BACK FROM OUR HONEYMOON! OH, I BEE... NO... IT'S ALL RIGHT. I UNDERSTAND. WELL, OF COURSE, IF IT'LL HELP FIND OUT WHERE SHE IS. NO, DARLING... I'LL BE OKAY. HANK AND BETTY WILL KEEP AN EYE ON ME...



IT ISN'T THE PICTURE, HANK. IT'S HIM! HE'S SO WRAPPED UP IN THIS THING... TRAIPIING ACROSS THE COUNTRY LOOKING FOR A... A DEAD WOMAN!

OH, WHO AM I KIDDING? IT'S MORE THAN JUST THAT; IT'S THE WAY HE LOOKS AT ME SOMETIMES... THE WAY HE TREATS ME, LIKE I'M GLORIA WINSOME AND SUSAN WESTLY IS THE DEAD ONE!



NOW, TAKE IT EASY, KID...

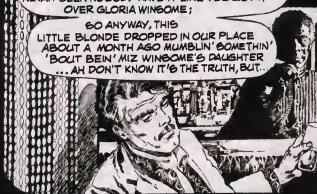
HANK, I CAN FEEL IT! I CAN FEEL IT WHEN HE TOUCHES ME!... WHEN HE MAKES LOVE TO ME! IT'S GLORIA WINSOME HE WANTS! IT'S GLORIA WINSOME HE MARRIED!



July 10, 1948: After months of getting nowhere, I received a very encouraging phone call today...

MR. WESTLY? YEAH, THIS IS GIL PATTERSON AT THE TOP HAT, MEMBER? RIGHT. EAY, AH BEEN T HINKIN'! ... YOU LOOKEN LIKE A DECENT SORT AND ALL AND, WELL, TO TELL THE TRUTH, AH AIN'T NEVAH BEEN NOBODY HAVE IT LIKE YOU GOT IT OVER GLORIA WINSOME;

SO ANYWAY, THIS LITTLE BLONDE DROPPED IN OUR PLACE ABOUT A MONTH AGO MUMBLIN' SOMETHIN' 'BOUT BEIN' MIZ WINSOME'S DAUGHTER ... AH DON'T KNOW IT'S THE TRUTH, BUT...



July 16, 1948: It took me a week to track her down. Could this be it?...

MISS CANBY? LILAH CANBY?

YEAH? WHO'RE YOU?



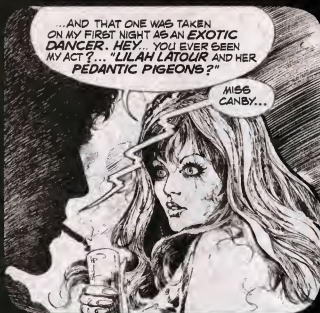
SURE, SURE I CAN PROVE IT. I GOT PICTURES... FAMILY PICTURES. HOLD ON A SEC...

HEY, YOU WANNA DRINK?





SEE? RIGHT THERE!
THAT'S MOM WHEN SHE WAS JUST
THREE YEARS OLD! AND HERE...
LOOK HERE... THAT'S MY OLD
MAN...



...AND THAT ONE WAS TAKEN
ON MY FIRST NIGHT AS AN EXOTIC
DANCER. HEY, YOU EVER SEEN
MY ACT?... "LILAH LATOUR AND HER
PEDANTIC PIGEONS?"

MISS
CANBY...



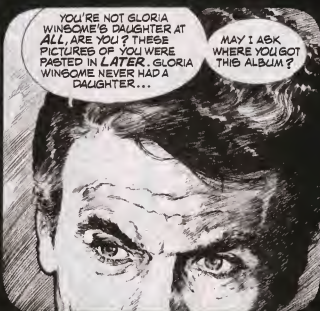
I START MY ACT WITH A
SLOW PEEL, SEE... GET THE
BOYS IN THE FRONT ROW
STEAMIN'... BOOM-A-LAKA,
BOOM-A-LAKA, BOOM!

MISS
CANBY...



THEN ALL THESE
PASTEL-PAINTED PIGEONS
BETTEL ON MY BODY...
COOING WITH THE BEAT!
BOOM-A-LAKA, BOOM-A-
LAKA, BOOM!

'COURSE IT'S
BETTER WITH
THE BIRDS...



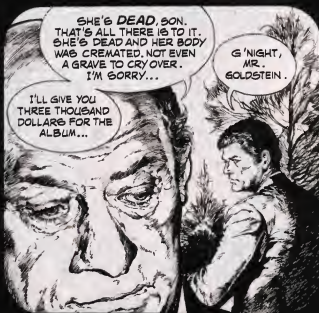
YOU'RE NOT GLORIA
WINSOME'S DAUGHTER AT
ALL, ARE YOU? THESE
PICTURES OF YOU WERE
PASTED IN LATER. GLORIA
WINSOME NEVER HAD A
DAUGHTER...

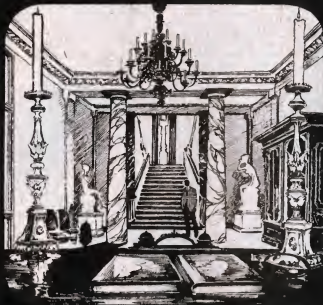
MAY I ASK
WHERE YOU GOT
THIS ALBUM?



... AND DON'T EVER COME
BACK YA SON-OF-A-BITCH!
LOUSY GODDAMN HOLLYWOOD
REPORTER! TAKE THE STINKIN'
ALBUM WITH YA! SHE WAS A
CRUMMY MOTHER ANYHOW! A
CRUMMY ACTRESS AND A
CRUMMY MOTHER!

GET OUT!!
GET OUT!!









I STARTED IN PICTURES AS A PRACTICAL JOKE, MR. WESTLY. HOW WAS I TO KNOW THE PUBLIC WOULD FALL IN LOVE WITH ME? HOW WAS I TO KNOW THE THING WOULD SNOWBALL?



YOU CAN SEE WHY I HAD TO GET OUT OF THE BUSINESS... CAN'T SUSTAIN A CHARADE LIKE THAT FOR LONG... BETTER TO LET THE WORLD THINK ME DEAD THAN KNOW THEIR BELOVED PLATINUM CROWNED SEX POT WAS A MAN...



AND IT'S STILL BETTER THAT WAY, DON'T YOU THINK, MR. WESTLY? BETTER FOR ALL CONCERNED, ONLY YOU AND CHARLES KNOW THE TRUTH, AND CHARLES HAS CANCER.

THE KNIFE IS QUITE SHARP. PLEASE TAKE IT.

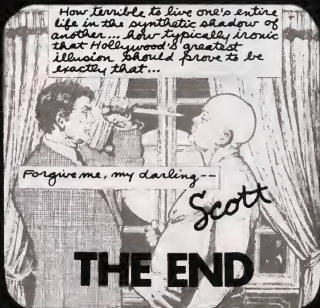
I'VE WAITED MANY YEARS FOR YOU, YOUNG MAN... DON'T FAIL ME...



July 18, 1948: It is past midnight. The deed is done. The film, I burned in the fire place along with all his identification papers which were laid out conveniently in the bedroom for me...



It is as if time had stood still in the great house waiting patiently for someone like me to come... waiting for an end to the awful agony, the endurance. For it is clear to me now that he-- like all of us-- loved her too...



How terrible to live one's entire life in the synthetic shadow of another... how typically ironic that Hollywood's greatest illusion should prove to be exactly that...

Forgive me, my darling--

Scott

THE END

PROLOGUE

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
PREPARE YOUR SPIRITS FOR TO-
NIGHT'S SESSION! WE WILL STRETCH
OUT OUR HANDS AND **JOIN** THEM,
FORMING A **CIRCLE**.

WE WILL **CONCENTRATE**
AND YOU WILL BE IN ME. YOU WILL
BE THE FORCE THAT WILL HELP ME
COMMUNICATE WITH THE
HEREAFTER!



THROUGHOUT MY DECADE AS A DEBUNKER OF
FALSE MYSTICS (AND I HAD YET TO MEET A
TRUE ONE), THE ROUTINE HADN'T VARIED...

...THE JOINED HANDS, THE **CIRCLE**, THE ANXIOUS
EYES OF THE PARTICIPANTS, THE MYSTIC'S
SONOROUS **VOICE** CHALLENGING THE SPIRIT
WORLD.

SPIRITS, HAVE YOU
ANYTHING TO TELL US?



EXPECTING THE USUAL, HOLLOW-
VOICED ASSURANCES, I WAS UN-
PREPARED WHEN...

I HAVE A **MESSAGE**
FOR THE **SKEPTIC** WHO
HELPS THE SPIRIT WORLD BY
EXPOSING FALSE MEDIUMS.

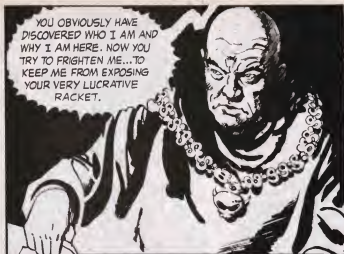
HE HAS **NO RESPECT**
FOR THE SPIRITS, THEMSELVES,
BUT NEVERTHELESS, WE **WARN**
HIM.



HE MUST **QUIT** HIS PLANS
TO VISIT **BOSTON** OR WITHIN
THE **WEEK**, HE WILL HIMSELF
BECOME PART OF A **HAUNTING**.

ENOUGH!



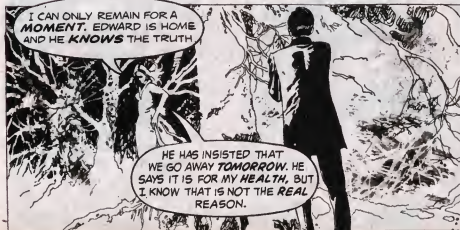
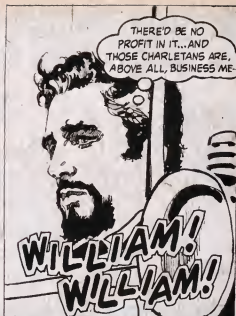


AN INSULT TO SCIENCE



THE NEXT DAY I STARTED FOR BOSTON, WHERE I PLANNED TO DELIVER MY DEFINITIVE STATEMENT ON THE SPIRIT WORLD.

I HAD UNMASKED OTHER MEDIUMS WITH EXTORTIONIST SCHEMES AND PLANNED TO DEAL WITH THIS SWAMI IN THE SAME MANNER.





I MUST HURRY BACK. EDWARD IS THERE NOW, BUT HE WILL BE AWAY TONIGHT AND THE SERVANTS HAVE ALL BEEN DISMISSED.

NOTHING SHE SAID MADE ANY SENSE AT ALL. SHE OBVIOUSLY HAD STOPPED ME, BELIEVING ME TO BE SOMEONE ELSE... BUT SHE CALLED ME BY MY OWN NAME. I WAS TOO DUMB-FOUNDED TO SPEAK.



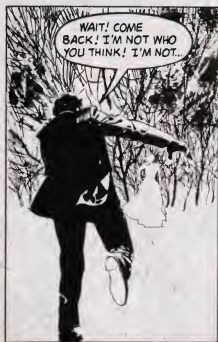
COME TO ME THEN, SO THAT WE CAN SAY...

W-WAIT!
I'M NOT--

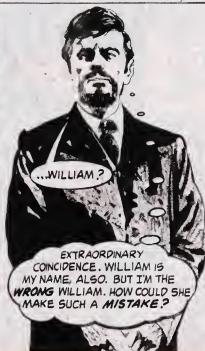


...GOOD-BYE!

NO, YOU MUSTN'T GO. NOT NOW. I--



WAIT! COME BACK! I'M NOT WHO YOU THINK! I'M NOT.



...WILLIAM?

EXTRAORDINARY COINCIDENCE. WILLIAM IS MY NAME, ALSO. BUT I'M THE **WRONG** WILLIAM. HOW COULD SHE MAKE SUCH A **MISTAKE**?



PERHAPS IN THE **FAILING** LIGHT...? AH WELL, IT'S GETTING LATE. I HAD BETTER HURRY.

HER LOVER WILL BE DISAPPOINTED WHEN HE CALLS AND SHE IS GONE.

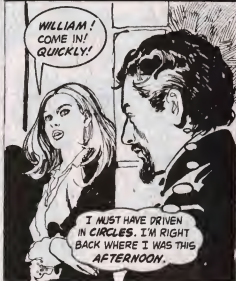
I MUST HAVE MISSED MY TURN, AND I FOLLOWED WINDING COUNTRY ROADS FOR HOURS... COMPLETELY **LOST**. I HAD ALMOST DECIDED TO PULL THE CAR OVER... TO SLEEP UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SKY, WHEN I SAW A **LIGHT** SHINING THROUGH THE TREES. AT THE ENTRANCE TO A LONG DRIVE I DISCOVERED A SIGN THAT READ **SATSBURY MANOR**.

THANK GOD. IF THESE PEOPLE CAN'T OFFER **SHELTER**, THEY SHOULD AT LEAST BE ABLE TO GIVE ME **DIRECTIONS**.



WILLIAM!
COME IN!
QUICKLY!

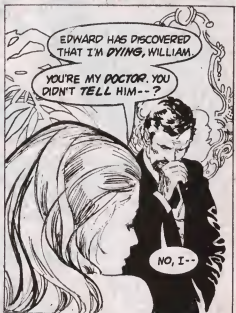
I MUST HAVE DRIVEN
IN CIRCLES. I'M RIGHT
BACK WHERE I WAS THIS
AFTERNOON.



EDWARD HAS DISCOVERED
THAT I'M DYING, WILLIAM

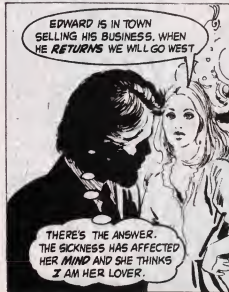
YOU'RE MY DOCTOR. YOU
DIDN'T TELL HIM -- ?

NO, I --



EDWARD IS IN TOWN
SELLING HIS BUSINESS. WHEN
HE RETURNS WE WILL GO WEST

THERE'S THE ANSWER.
THE SICKNESS HAS AFFECTED
HER MIND AND SHE THINKS
I AM HER LOVER.



EDWARD CAN'T BEAR TO
LOSE ME TO ANYONE... TO
ANOTHER MAN... OR DEATH
ITSELF.

SEE HOW EVEN HIS
PORTRAIT GLARES AT
ME. HE OWNS ME WILLIAM.
HE'D NEVER LET ME GO.



WILLIAM, I DON'T
WANT TO LEAVE YOU,
BUT I MUST.

I-I JUST CAN'T
BREAK THE TRUTH
TO HER.



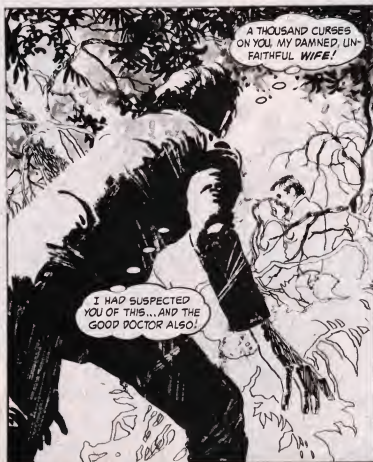


I FEAR EDWARD WOULD
RATHER *KILL* ME THAN LOSE
ME.

SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL...
SO TOTALLY HELPLESS...



I *KISSED* HER WITH *PASSION* NOT ENTIRELY
FEIGNED...AND SHE *EAGERLY* RETURNED
MY *ARDOR*.



A THOUSAND CURSES
ON YOU, MY DAMNED, UN-
FAITHFUL *WIFE*!

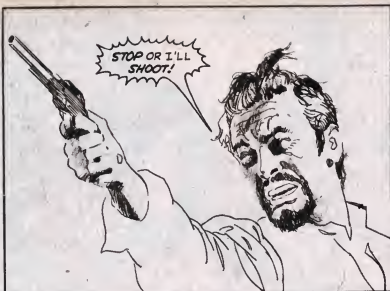
I HAD SUSPECTED
YOU OF THIS...AND THE
GOOD DOCTOR ALSO!



THESE ARE YOUR
LAST MONTHS OF LIFE...
AND YOU WILLINGLY CHOOSE
TO SPEND THEM IN SOMEONE
ELSE'S *ARMS*?

YOU SHALL SPEND
THEM WITH *ME*... OR
NOT AT *ALL*!





STOP OR I'LL
SHOOT!

I FIRED AND THE BURGLAR RAN
DOWN THE HALL. I FIRED AGAIN
AND HE **CRUMPLED**... THEN PITCHED
FORWARD THROUGH THE STAINED
GLASS WINDOW.

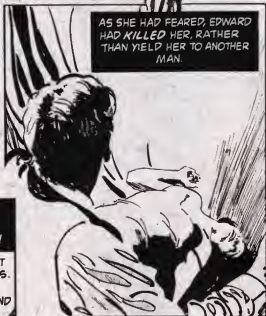


HE LANDED, SPRAWLED AND
BROKEN ON THE GROUND BELOW.
IT WAS ANNA'S HUSBAND,
EDWARD!

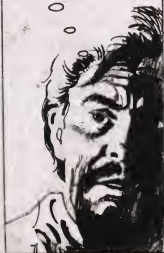


AND THEN I SAW ANNA.
SHE LAY LIKE A DISCARDED
DOLL, HER NECK HORRIBLY
TWISTED

AS SHE HAD FEARED, EDWARD
HAD **KILLED** HER, RATHER
THAN YIELD HER TO ANOTHER
MAN.



I'VE GOT TO TELL
SOMEONE... FIND THE
POLICE!



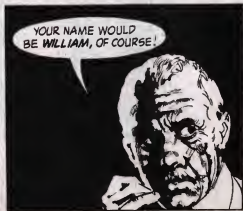
I FINALLY MANAGED
TO GET MY CAR
STARTED. TO MY
SURPRISE, NOT TWO
MILES DOWN THE
ROAD WAS A
SMALL VILLAGE.

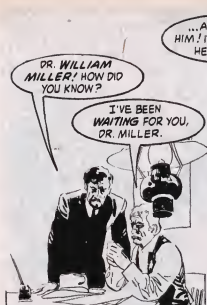
I BURST INTO THE
SHERIFF'S OFFICE,
FRANTIC... UPSET!

I WANT TO REPORT
THE **MURDER** OF MRS.
ANNA GREY AT
SATSURY MANOR AND
HER HUSBAND,
EDWARD!



YOUR NAME WOULD
BE **WILLIAM**, OF COURSE!





DR. WILLIAM MILLER! HOW DO YOU KNOW?

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, DR. MILLER.



...AND I SHOT HIM! IT WAS TERRIBLE! HE FELL...

...OUT THE WINDOW! I KNOW!

IS YOUR CAR OUTSIDE, DR. MILLER?



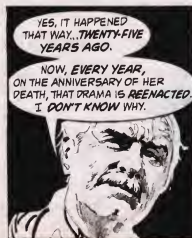
COME HOME WITH ME AND HAVE SOME BREAKFAST.

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO SEE. BUT IT'S BEST SEEN IN THE MORNING LIGHT.



THE MANSION... ABANDONED... IN RUINS.

BUT I SPENT LAST NIGHT HERE

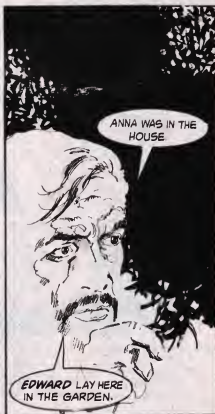


YES, IT HAPPENED THAT WAY... TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

NOW, EVERY YEAR, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH, THAT DRAMA IS REENACTED. I DON'T KNOW WHY.

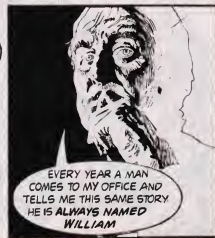


BUT I THINK MAYBE ANNA IS STILL TRYING TO SAY HER FINAL FAREWELL TO HER LOVER.



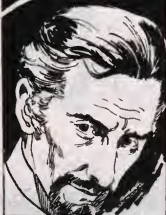
ANNA WAS IN THE HOUSE

EDWARD LAY HERE IN THE GARDEN.



EVERY YEAR A MAN COMES TO MY OFFICE AND TELLS ME THIS SAME STORY. HE IS ALWAYS NAMED WILLIAM

I FEEL THAT IF
SHE COULD EVER ONCE
SPEND THE NIGHT...COMPLETE
THE FAREWELL...HER
SPIRIT WOULD REST!



I RESUMED MY JOURNEY TO
BOSTON THEN, WITH THE
SHERIFF'S EERIE STORY
SENDING CHILLS DOWN MY
SPINE.



I HAD A JOB TO DO...A
PAPER TO READ...A
CHARLATAN TO UNMASK.

GENTLEMEN, I HAVE SOME-
THING TO SAY THAT MAY BE
OF INTEREST TO YOU.



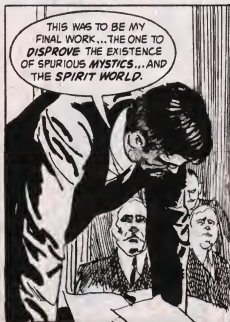
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HAVE INVESTIGATED THE
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THESE HAVE BEEN TEN YEARS
WELL SPENT.

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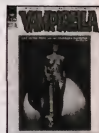
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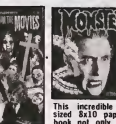
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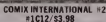
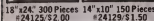
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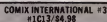
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The 1974 comic art convention program book from the New York comic con is available! Here it is! First, on the full color cover, it has Joe Simon's original drawing of Captain America!



Also included are an in-depth interview with Bob Kane and C.C. Beck who created Batman and Captain Marvel; Will Eisner profile by Murphy Anderson; Joe Simon article, with Simon and Kirby art; Harvey Kurtzman and Little Annie Fanny; this & more! 8-1/2"x5-1/2" #21158/\$3

AVENGER ADVENTURES



JUSTICE, INC. is the first Avenger novel. The story tells how Richard Benson becomes the Avenger! Exciting! #21061/\$9.95



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ABBOTT & COSTELLO 200* HOME MOVIES! REGULAR 8 & SUPER 8 MONSTER FILMS!



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Abbott & Costello Meet Dr. Jekyll The frightful king of horror, Boris Karloff, plays the double role of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. The duo become involved with the strange doctor's experiments and Lou turns into a monster! #2240/\$9.95

Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein Frankenstein's monster is stolen by none other than Count Dracula who plans to give the creature Lou's brain. The boys find a weird ally in Dracula's sworn enemy the Wolfman! Exciting! #2241/\$9.95

YELLOW SUBMARINE AND PLASTIC BEATLES HOBBY KIT

A collector's item from the days of Beatlemania! Build your own Yellow Submarine from high quality yellow plastic and chrome plated periscopes. Kit comes complete with decals and painting instructions. Action doors open and rubber band motor propels sub forward through bathtub waters at periscope depth. Instructions and equipment to build Beatles display plaques included. #2412/\$14.95

**BUILD IT!
DISPLAY IT!
WIND IT UP
AND FLOAT
IT IN YOUR
BATHTUB!**



STAR TREK FULL COLOR POSTER

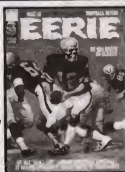
Here comes the ultimate Star Trek poster! Ken Barr, well known science fiction illustrator, has pulled out the stops and created a masterpiece of Fantastic Art. The 6 major characters of Star Trek—Captain Kirk, Commander Spock, Doc McCoy, Scotty, Uhura and Sulu—are beaming your way in rich, vivid color. Behind the crew is their ship, the Enterprise, rendered in striking detail. Surrounding them, in subtle hues, are memories of their voyages. 28"x20". #2980/\$2.98

FOR TREKKIES, SCI-FI FANS AND POSTER FREAKS. YOU MUST HAVE KEN BARR'S STAR TREK!

WOW*POSTERS!

Because this ad is in black and white, you can't possibly appreciate the vivid colors of the magnificent posters. The looth all players engage in their deadly sport against a striking, blood-red backdrop. The robot pitcher tosses his explosive sphere before a crisp green field. Sport's fans or just plain poster nuts will want these bright bills for your walls. On the straight Sci-Fi/Horror side, we offer two masterpieces by Kelly & Enrich. The lumbering mechanical man is so real you'll have to bolt it to the wall. Then our comely heroine, amazing Vampirella, reaches out, tempting you to accept her hand. Can anyone refuse her? We think not! All four can be yours!

4 Cover Posters In Full Color!



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WEIRD SCIENCE #15 For Space Opera fanatics "Marlans," "Captivity" & "Bum Steer." #2103/\$2.00



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CRIME SUSPENSSTORIES #25 Four gripping stories of crime and results. #2111/\$1.50



THE VAULT OF HORROR #26 Cover and cover story by Jack Davis delivers shocking comment! #2112/\$1.50



SHOCK SUSPENSSTORIES #16 "Undercover" by the master, Wood! A must! #2109/\$1.50



WEIRD FANTASY #13 Two Sci-Fi thrillers An unending chiller awaits in "Lost Microcosm." #2118/\$1.25



WEIRD SCIENCE #12 Two Sci-Fi thrillers An unending chiller awaits in "Lost Microcosm." #2118/\$1.25



TWO-FISTED TALES #34 Exciting stories of heroism and com-ardice! #2115/\$1.25

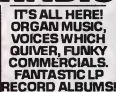


HAUNT OF FEAR #23 From coral atoll to Bayou swamps. Fearful stories! #2116/\$1.25

5 RECORDS OF THE RADIO ERA



MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY "SET UP FOR RE-ENTRY" When a crusading reporter is killed, the D.A. swears his revenge #2348/\$4.98



F.B.I. PEACE AND WAR "THE TRAVELING MAN" A car thief steals a car for his honeymoon and the FBI pursues. #2349/\$4.98



TERRY AND THE PIRATES AND JACK ARMSTRONG Terry meets the Countess. Is the royal lady a spy or counter-spy? #2350/\$4.98

INNER SANCTUM #1 "DEATH BY SCRIPTURE" Major Roger Mason confronts the "Black Dragon" gang. Lipton Tea ad. #2352/\$4.98

INNER SANCTUM #2 "TILL DEATH DO US PART" Honey-mooning couple witnessed a murder and become targets. #2353/\$4.98

Once in a millennium there is an artist whose unique talent to paint form, color, motion and lighting puts him in a class of his own. But once and only once there will be-Frazetta! See flying reptiles, long toothed tigers, Martian Monstrosities, battling barbarians, and beautiful babes on alien landscapes and in pre-historic jungles. Frazetta can paint scenery which explodes with vivid color and raw power!

COLORFUL FANTASY!



1977 FRAZZETTA CALENDAR

NEVER BEFORE HAS ANY ARTIST BEEN ABLE TO VISUALIZE FANTASTIC WORLDS WITH SUCH BRILLIANT CLARITY AS FRAZZETTA! UNCONQUERABLE HEROES! SENSUAL FEMALES! ALL FULL COLOR!!



Already acknowledged as the master of the school of Fantastic Art, Frazetta's fame is rapidly growing. Now available is the 1977 Frazetta Calendar with 12 of the artist's magnificent paintings reproduced in full color on quality paper. Bonus! A gigantic battle scene, The Destroyer, is the centerpiece. The pictures can be cut out and framed. Calendar size is a large 12" x 13" a must! #2601/\$4.95

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Three thrilling tales from SPACE: 1999 on LP record! Breakaway "Death's Other Dominion" Mission of Darions. #2379/\$2.49

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Build the detailed model of famous ship from SPACE: 1999! Eagle transporter 12 inches long! Detachable cargo hold! #2416/\$2.98

VAMPIRELLA ★ FAN CLUB!



3" FULL COLOR PIN



MEMBERSHIP CARD

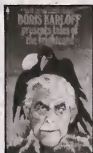
All you red-blooded VAMPIRELLA readers! Take a look at the fantastic blood-curdling collection of goodies you'll get when you join Vampi's New FAN CLUB! A full color CLUB BADGE (on high-quality metal) with a portrait of VAMPIRELLA in the center by top artist Asian. Plus, you will receive an official, wallet-sized MEMBERSHIP CARD individually signed and numbered by VAMPIRELLA! #2644 ONLY \$2.00

HURRAH FOR HORROR!

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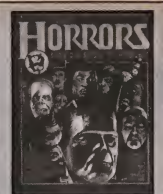
IN SEARCH OF DRACULA. 247 pgs. 60 illustrations. True history of Dracula & vampire legends! #21203/\$1.50



BORIS KARLOFF'S TALES OF THE FRIGHTENED Deadly ladies, lumb robbers, convicts & more! Buy #21121/\$95



HORROR TIMES TEN 10 fine fright tales by Bradbury, Lovecraft, Bloch & others. Indulge now! #21199/\$95



HORRORS FROM SCREEN TO SCREAM An encyclopedic guide to the greatest horror and fantasy films of all time! The stars, producers, directors. Werewolves, Mad Ores., vampires, mummies. An 8 1/2" x 11" book spanning from 1910 to the present. 306 pages-hundreds of photos! #21202/\$4.95

VAMPIRELLA STICKER



Our stunning little gal has been miniaturized into a 9" sticker! No doubt you've seen the masterful, full length portrait of Vampi by Jose Gonzales. This sensational illustration has been printed on a durable, clear plastic, coated with a pre-gummed surface. Apply on glass or clear plastic. #2699/99ea 3 for \$1.98

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EXCITING PAPERBACK NOVELS ABOUT THE FAMOUS VAMPIRE FROM TV'S "DARK SHADOWS!"

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COLOR YOUR OWN DELUXE PREHISTORIC MONSTERS!



Color this frightening 9"x14 1/2" poster and what will you have? One of the most terrifying wall hangings any do-it-yourself poster freak could ask for! Giant Tyrannosaurus Rex roars. Stegosaurus stalks through a fabulous landscape filled with the lush flora and fauna of the Cretaceous period. Choose your own colors. No one knows how dinosaurs were colored or patterned. Be fanciful. The Pen A Poster kit comes complete with a black and white design on high quality paper and all the colors you'll need to create a prehistoric masterpiece. #2695/\$4.50

SUPER HERO RADIOS

SUPER-HEROIC 5 TRANSISTOR SUPERMAN AND BATMAN RADIOS!

BATTERY IS INCLUDED! DON'T MISS EXCITING SUPER-OFFER!



"Wherever you go, you'll get super-sound from these BATMAN and SUPERMAN transistor radios. Made from non-breakable plastic and brightly colored with the super heroes' own colorful colors, they come with battery and handy carrying strap. #2638 SUPERMAN RADIO \$9.95/#2639 BATMAN RADIO \$9.95.

PAPERBACK BOOK CASES!

Your favorite paperback books deserve a good, dirt free, home. Keep them in these handsome cases with padded leatherette coverings, embossed in gold leaf. Choice of 4 colors: black, brown, green or red. Tilted back shelves prevent book fall out. Also, gold foil for your name.



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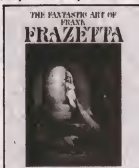
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REMARKABLE BOOKS!



LUGOSI: The Man Behind the Cape: Facts & photos galore! 307 page hard cover book. Get to know Bela Lugosi as only a few did. Buy #21215/\$9.95

**EXPLORE THE
WORLD OF ART!
ENJOY THESE
BOOKS WHILE
LEARNING!**



FANTASTIC Art of FRAZETTA: A beautiful 80 page book, 33 full color paintings & 14 B&W drawings. Top quality! #21201/\$6.95



BLOODSTAR, by Richard Corben: Gaze at over 100 pages of adventure & the most spectacular art imaginable! An 8-1/2" x 11" hard cover edition. A gripping story & visual power! #21213/\$14.95



LIVING IN FEAR: The history of Horror in a 248 page, 8-1/2" x 11" hard cover book. Over 90 photos & illustrations. Learn it all! #21206/\$12.95



The BOOK OF VIRGIL FINLAY: one of the masters of fantasy art! Over 120 B&W drawings. 8-1/4" x 11" soft cover book. #21214/\$4.95

FIRE-BREATHING MONSTER WALKING DOLLS

Here they come! With fiery breaths, they are out to conquer the world but they will certainly capture your heart. Constructed of tough plastic, painted in full color, the 3" tall, wind-up robots emit bright yet harmless tint sparks.



LAGOON CREATURE	KING KONG	REX DINOSAUR
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\$1.59	\$1.59	\$1.59

MAKE US YOUR BAG!

Attention Collectors! The Warren Publishing tote bags from '73 & '74 N.Y. Comic Art Conventions, are made of heavy weight vinyl. They're yellow with snap grip handles 17" x 14". A perfect way to transport mini condition comics with your favorite characters on the bags!



**GET YOUR
COLLECTOR'S
ITEM TOTE
BAG WHILE
SUPPLY
LASTS!**

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ONLY 99¢

STAR TREK'S NEW 1977 CALENDAR

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DATE: 7701.01.
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WITH THE CREW
OF THE
ENTERPRISE BY
TRACING THEIR
TREK THROUGH
SPACE AND TIME
ON A STAR TREK
1977 (STARDATE)
CALENDAR. THE
GRID INDICATES
STAR AND STANDARD
EARTHLY DATES,
MONTHLY COLOR
PHOTOS, ALSO A...



FREE SPOCK POSTER!

With every STAR TREK (STARDATE) CALENDAR you will receive, absolutely free, a poster of one of the most fascinating characters ever to come out of science fiction, the stoic Vulcan, Spock. The full color pin-up is 13" x 22" and features the Enterprise's Second-In-Command performing his various duties as Chief Science Officer. In the foreground, wearing the pendant of his planet, Vulcan, he gives the famous Vulcan salute and you can almost hear him wish you to "Live long and prosper!" All the above is included in the calendar, which measures a big 12-1/2" x 13", and besides the large monthly color photos there are loads of black and white action photos! #26012/\$4.95.

8 INCHES OF FUN & FLEXIBILITY! SUPER ACTION FIGURES!

Battle dressed and ready for action—the 8" high band of characters twist and turn they way into your heart! They are made of durable flesh colored plastic. Look authentic in bright costumes.



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#2471/\$4.49

They move at your every whim! You concoct adventurous plots for your action 8" dolls to perform! Watch them battle it out, before your very own eyes! **GET THEM ALL TODAY!**



THE JOKER
#2469/\$4.49

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FREE FILMS REGULAR & SUPER

FRANKENSTEIN MEETS THE WOLFMAN



High in the Carpathian Mountains, a mad scientist works to revive the Frankenstein monster. And he succeeds, in time for the living corpse to do battle with a rampant wolfman. Lightning, fangs, and action galore. Fight between the monsters is one of horror film's finest. Stars Lugosi as Frankenstein, and Chaney as Wolfman. #2227/\$9.95

DOOM OF DRACULA



Boris Karloff portrays a carnival owner who locates the remains of Count Dracula. He brings the vampire back to life, and sends him on an utterly diabolical mission. Soon, however, Karloff realizes he has made a mistake, as Dracula turns on him! John Carradine plays Dracula's sequel "House of Frankenstein" film. #2246/\$9.95

THE INVISIBLE MAN



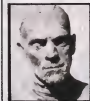
This is it! The original motion picture featuring the film's classic character. This effort introduced the great Claude Rains to the industry. Starting special effects by John P. Fulton, which show man who becomes transparent due to scientific experiments. A chilling, absorbing film, one of the all-time greats. #2237/\$9.95

HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN



Follow-up feature to "Doom of Dracula." Karloff stars as scientist disguised as Carry-on, who is journeying the world-over in search of the Frankenstein monster. And, finally, he finds it... returning it to life. But then, trouble! For the Wolfman arrives on the scene, to destroy the doctor and his new "patient." #2247/\$9.95

THE "ORIGINAL" MUMMY



One of Karloff's most memorable performances; one of the great horror films. Excavation in Egypt uncovers tomb of Mummy Im-ho-tep. That night, he comes back to life. After murdering one of the scientists, the bandaged beast makes for London. There, he seeks the reincarnation of his one-time Egyptian mistress. Film is Im-ho-TOPS! #2224/\$9.95

THE MUMMY'S GHOST



Here is an exciting sequel to "The Mummy." Lon Chaney portrays the man of rotted cloth, as he terrorizes a scientific gathering about his sacred sarcophagus. And, as he would have it, he falls for the young lady scientist who is a part of this expedition. This Mummy is more brutal, more deadly than the Karloff one. #2269/\$9.95

REVENGE OF THE CREATURE



A sequel to the original "Creature." Him, this movie has a second excursion into the beast's Amazonian home to capture the monster. They take him into captivity and civilization... there, from the confines of an aquarium pool, the Creature brutally mauls his captors, and escapes! Rampant, the Gill-Man kills many! #2254/\$9.95

I WAS A TEENAGE WEREWOLF



One of the most popular monster movies in history. A young boy visits a psychiatrist for to solve his various hang-ups. But the doctor, himself, is deranged, and hypnotizes the boy. Under hypnosis, the young man is convinced by the psychiatrist that he is a werewolf! Then, it's off to kill for the doctor! #2221/\$9.95

RETURN OF THE VAMPIRE



This is the big one! Vampire vs. werewolf in horrific shocker. Bela Lugosi portrays the blood-gulper, who subjugates a ferocious werewolf. And, then, together, the two go in search of unsuspecting victims. Lugosi is at his menacing best in this, one of his four vampire roles. The ending is a gripping one, that must be seen. #2267/\$9.95

RETURN OF DRACULA



Dracula is back, in the form of actor Charles Lederer. The Count moves into a small, isolated town and begins to live as a parasite, sucking the blood of the plain country folk around him. All goes well... until the intrepid monster is found out... and hunted. One of the most unusual Dracula films ever produced. A must. #2273/\$9.95

MAN-MADE MONSTER



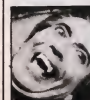
A team-up of two great horror actors. Lionel Atwill portrays a mad scientist, and Lon Chaney, a truck driver killed in an accident. Atwill discovers the body and through the use of high-voltage electricity, brings Chaney back to life. But the truck driver is no longer human. He's become an electric monster-sity! #2264/\$9.95

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME



A classic of filmmaking. The second filming of Hugo's immortal novel stars Charles Laughton as the horribly misshapen hunchback called Quasimodo. This brilliant film tells of the beast's love for a beauty: The gypsy Esmeralda. And the horrors that befall the young girl in the France of yore. A sensitive monster movie. #2236/\$9.95

TASTE THE BLOOD OF DRACULA



Many fans of horror films consider Christopher Lee the finest screen Dracula. And in this film, his awesome talent is in evidence. Tall, violent, and menacing, Lee is the immortal count. Here, he travels from Transylvania to London. His plan is to ravage four respectable families in the great city. And this he does, brutally! #2265/\$9.95

STRAIGHT-ACT



Joan Crawford, star of "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane," joined with "Rosemary's Baby" Bill Castle to create this modern-day horror classic. This film is not for the faint-hearted, as it is about a series of brutal ex-murders. To Crawford victim or killer? Warning: vicious axe-killing appears in this film. A real shocker! #2266/\$9.95

THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS



Peter Lorre stars in this incredible film of a concert pianist. So far, not very frightening. But when he is possessed by devilish madness, his gentle hands become instruments of vile murder. And then is unleashed the incredible Beast With Five Fingers. Lorro at his horrific best, with fine supporting cast. #2230/\$9.95

GANGSTER HOME MOVIES



ROD STEIGER IS AL CAPONE

Rod Steiger and Fay Spain star. The flavor of the 1920's is brought to life in an action packed story of the legendary killer! A vivid retelling of a most notorious gangland leader. Capone's story on a 200' raiin super or reg 8 #22019/\$9.95

LAWRENCE TIERNY AS DILLINGER

A true story of Public Enemy #1! The Dillinger gang strikes! A rousing climax... as cops vs. robbers in a showdown. Can the forces of good deter the vicious gang of killers? Who wins? Find out... get your film. Sup or reg 8 200' reel #22020/\$9.95

THE MAN CALLED BOGART

A selection of the best work of Humphrey Bogart! Featuring clips from "Casablanca," "Matarese Falcon," & all the great Bogart roles. Action! A must for all movie fans. 200' reel, super or regular 8 #22021/\$9.95

JAMES CAGNEY IN PUBLIC ENEMY

James Cagney and Jean Harlow! One of the finest gangster films ever made! Rival gangs fight it out for underworld supremacy. A real shocker ending! A superb home movie. Super or reg 8 - 200' reel. #22023/\$9.95

SCI-FI HOME MOVIES

REG 8 AND SUPER 8! 200' REELS!

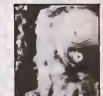
WAR OF THE COLOSSAL BEAST



Exposed to rays of the world's first Plutonium bomb-blast, a man is growing 10' per day! Will he destroy Los Angeles? Is there a way to stop him? Order & find out. #2232/\$9.95

Here you have a great collection of some of the strangest science fiction films of all times! Pre-historic - futuristic men. Crash landings. Invaders. Beasts. Black & white flicks that are out of this world and all others! Don't miss out on these greats! Order today.

IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE



Ray Bradbury's classic is also an incredible motion picture! An alien crashes to Earth & enslaves Earth's people. The fact of Kenomorph is frightening! Thrills aplenty! #2233/\$9.95

PLANET OF THE APES TERRIFIC VINYL MASKS!



CORNELIUS: Handsome chimp mask covers whole head #2576/\$14.95



DR. ZAIUS: A beuiful, hairy & wise moval #2577/\$14.95



WARRIOR: A fierce gorilla! A fine full headmask. #2578/\$14.95

INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN



Star, Grant Williams begins to shrink after passing through a weird mist. Smaller & smaller - till he has to battle a now-giant cat & tarantula! What awaits Beyond? Buy #2236/\$9.95

WAR OF THE PLANETS



The planet Meteluna? That's where two Earth scientists are brought and find themselves in the middle of an incredible Universal War! Will they escape? Order & find out. #2235/\$9.95

TROG



A Prehistoric man's body is found by Joan Crawford (scientist). After one million years of hibernation, how will the reanimated Neanderthal react? A terrific movie! #2262/\$9.95

PAPERBACK NOVELS OF THE UNDEAD

Grotesque Adventures into the World of Undying Monsters



TRUE VAMPIRES
A thoroughly researched book about vampires that actually walked the earth. A shocker of a book. #21041/\$1.25



7 TICKETS TO HELL
A treasure in gold, an army of zombies, and monster worms. And then there's the curse. #21048/\$1.00



THE MARROW EATERS
Creatures from a pit of unspeakable horror crawl amongst mankind, sucking life from our bones. #21047/\$1.00



NIGHT OF THE WOLF
A wandering werewolf, not content with his home, crosses the ocean in search of new blood! #21049/\$1.00



HOSPITAL HORROR
The setting is a hospital, with unearthly goings-on within. 1 or 2 and fiends abound! #21045/\$1.00



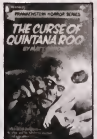
DRACULA RETURNS
Right where the original left off! Using the technology of modern science 2 scientists reincarnate Dracula! #2106/\$95



HAND OF DRACULA
It began as a scavenger hunt in a funeral parlor. The director's bizarre ideas made Dracula shudder! #21042/\$95



GHOUL LOVER
The incredible Dr. Von Costel brings a beautiful young girl back to life for a fiendish purpose. #21050/\$1.00



CURSE OF QUINTANA ROO
From under the earth come 10' tall man-monsters, the Minions of Rahu. Will keep you franced. #21051/\$1.00



FRANKENSTEIN WHEEL
A return to the characters of Mary Shelley in this first serious sequel to the classic. #21052/\$1.00



VAMPIRE WOMEN
A scientist is very unsure that vampires walk the earth. That is, until he meets Oracula. #21087/\$95



ORACULA'S BROTHERS
A Rock of Vampire Bats were on a rampage. Would Oracula stop them if it meant war against his brothers? #21133/\$95



ORACULA'S GOLD
Is the mysterious woman in white, who lurks in the shadows, the deadly slasher or is Oracula the killer? #21134/\$95



ORMS OF DRACULA
Giddy Bones was a Voodoo priest and even Oracula left helpless against a hoard of Ovidolls & Zombies! #21135/\$95

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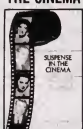
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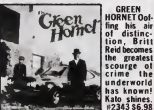


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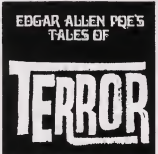
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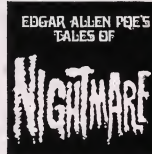
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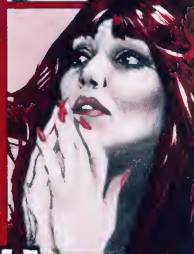
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